

A
DESCRIPTION
OF ABOVE
Three Hundred Animals,

V I Z.

BEASTS,
BIRDS,
FISHES,



SERPENTS,
AND
INSECTS.

W I T H

A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE MANNER
OF CATCHING WHALES IN GREENLAND.

EXTRACTED FROM THE BEST AUTHORS, AND ADAPTED
TO THE USE OF ALL CAPACITIES.

ILLUSTRATED WITH COPPER-PLATES,
WHEREON IS CURIOUSLY ENGRAVEN EVERY BEAST, BIRD,
FISH, SERPENT, AND INSECT, DESCRIBED IN THE WHOLE BOOK.

P S A L M L. 10, 11.

*For every Beast of the Forest is mine, and the Cattle upon a
thousand Hills. I know all the Fowls of the Mountains, and
the wild Beasts of the Field are mine.*

G L A S G O W,

PRINTED BY J. AND M. ROBERTSON,
MDCCXCIV.

Ch. 790/173.



TO THE
R E A D E R.

THE instruction of children having been always thought, by wise men, of great use, both with regard to the present age, and to posterity; and most of the books which have been made use of to introduce children into a habit of reading, being such as tend rather to cloy than entertain them; I have thought fit, with short descriptions of animals, and pictures fairly drawn, (which last, experience shews them to be much delighted with,) to engage their atten-

tion. I have therefore extracted, from some of the most considerable authors, a short account of beasts, birds, fishes, serpents, and insects; which, I hope, will prove the more acceptable, there having been nothing done (that I know of) in this nature so compendiously, for the entertainment of children. I have forborne to be very particular in the description of those animals which almost every child is acquainted with. If this brief essay shall any ways contribute to the end proposed, let God have the glory, and the compiler the good wishes and prayers of parents.

T H E C O N T E N T S.

I. O F B E A S T S.

	Page		Page
L ION and Lionefs	2	Bifon	38
Jackall	ib.	White Scottifh Bifon	ib.
Panther and Leopard	3	Camelopardal	39
Tiger	ib.	Rein-Deer of Lapland	ib.
Ounce and Rompo	6	Hare and Rabbet	42
Buffalo	ib.	Mole	ib.
Bull, Cow, and Ox	7	Blood-Hound	43
Horse, Afs, and Mule	10	Water-Spaniel	ib.
Bear, and Ant-Bear	11	Land-Spaniel	ib.
Wolf	ib.	Dog	ib.
Rhinoceros	14	Maffiff-Dog	46
Unicorn	ib.	Bull-Dog	ib.
Fox and Racoon	15	Grey-Hound	ib.
Sagoïn and Berbe	ib.	Otter and Beaver	47
Lamia and Elke	18	Sea-Horfe	50
Allocamelus	ib.	Mountain-Cow	ib.
Sheep and Strepsiceros	19	Civet-Cat	51
Ibex and Mufmon	ib.	Gennet-Cat	ib.
Lynx and Cameleon	22	Pole-Cat	ib.
Roe-Buck and Hart	23	Common-Cat	ib.
Stag	ib.	Mice and Rat	54
Wild-Boar and Sow	26	Musk Rat	ib.
Ape and Bear-Ape	27	Land Tortoise	ib.
Fox-Ape	ib.	Wild Goat	55
Baboon and Monkey	30	Goat	ib.
Hyena and Manticora	31	Elephant	ib.
Antelope	ib.	Oppoffum and Potto	59
Porcupine and Badger	34	Coati-Mondi	ib.
Hedge-hog	ib.	Tatus	ib.
Camel and Dromedary	35	Squirrel and Weafel	62

6 C O N T E N T S.

	Page		Page
Lizard and Ferret	63	Crocodile	66
Martin	ib.		

II. O F B I R D S.

	Page		Page
G OLDEN Eagle	69	Ox-eye Creeper	94
Sea Eagle	ib.	Peacock	97
Black Eagle	70	Turkey	ib.
Eagle called Morphnos	ib.	Common Cock	98
Vulturine Eagle	ib.	Pheasant	ib.
Moor Buzzard	73	Partridge and Quail	101
Goshawk	ib.	Ostrich & Cassowary	102
Sparrow Hawk	ib.	King-fisher & Hoopoe	105
Kite	74	Bee Eater	ib.
Mountain Falcon	ib.	Water Ouzel	ib.
Red Indian Falcon	77	Turtle Dove	106
Great Butcher-Bird	ib.	Stock Dove	ib.
Merlin	78	Tame Pigeons	ib.
Honey Buzzard	ib.	Stare and Ring Ouzel	109
Vulture	81	Black Martin	ib.
Buzzard	ib.	Martin	ib.
Little Butcher-Bird	82	Swallow & Redstart	110
Cuckow	ib.	Robin-Red-Breast	113
Raven	85	Larks	ib.
Carrion Crow	ib.	Black-Bird	114
Rook and Jackdaw	86	Red-Wing	ib.
Magpie	ib.	Field-Fare	ib.
Jay, & Toucanian Pie	89	Mistle Bird	117
Roller	ib.	Song Thrush	ib.
Common Parrot	90	Wood Lark	118
Horn Owl	93	Crested Lark	ib.
Grey Owl	ib.	Nightingale	ib.
Common Owl	ib.	Ring Paroquet	121
Fern Owl	ib.	Foolish Sparrow	ib.
Woodpecker	94	Common Sparrow	ib.
Nuthatch	ib.	Bull-finch	ib.
Wall Creeper	ib.	Gold-finch	122

C O N T E N T S.

7

	Page		Page
Common Linnet	122	Wigeon	134
Red-headed Linnet	ib.	Knot	ib.
Yellow Hammer	ib.	Ruff	137
Water Wagtail	ib.	Brasilian Tamatia	ib.
Canary Bird	ib.	Coot	ib.
Crane	125	Snipe	138
Balearic	ib.	Godwit	ib.
Wren	126	Curlew	ib.
Titmice	ib.	Common, or white	
Long-Tail'd Indian		Stork	141
Sparrow	ib.	Spoon-Bill	ib.
Virginia Nightingale	129	Wood-Cock	ib.
Black Cap	ib.	Green Plover	142
Humming Bird	ib.	Grey Plover	ib.
Common Heron	130	Dottrel	ib.
Lesser ash-coloured		Common Moor-Hen	ib.
Heron	ib.	Teal	145
Bittern	ib.	Pelican	ib.
Red-shank	133	Cormorant	ib.
Lap-Wing	ib.	Shag	146
Tame Swan	ib.	Cornish-Chough	ib.
Tame Goose	134	Scar-Crow	ib.
Tame Duck	ib.	Cock	ib.

III. O F F I S H E S.

	Page		Page
W HALE	149	Sun Fish	162
Shark	157	Sea Adder	ib.
Pilot Fish	ib.	Father Lasher	ib.
Remora	ib.	Miller's Thumb	ib.
Dolphin	158	Sea Fox	165
Flying Fish	ib.	Monk Fish	ib.
Sheat Fish	161	Turbot	ib.
Sea Wolf	ib.	Sword Fish	166
Butterfly Fish	162	Sea Unicorn	ib.
Trumpet Fish	ib.	Picked Dog	169

8 C O N T E N T S.

	Page		Page
Porpessè	169	Lady Fish	181
Sturgeon	170	Pike	ib.
Haddock	173	Tobacco-Pipe Fish	182
Whiting	ib.	Horn, or Gar Fish	ib.
Ling	ib.	Anchovy	ib.
Grayling	174	Old Wife	ib.
Salmon	ib.	Cavallo	ib.
Gilt Charre	177	Carp	ib.
Salmon Trout	ib.	Makarel	185
Trout	ib.	Herring	ib.
Plaife	178	Sprat	186
Dab	ib.	Smelt	ib.
Flounder	ib.	Pogge	ib.
Sole	ib.	Sea Gudgeon	ib.
Cod Fish	ib.	Lump, or Sea Owl	ib.
Silver Fish	181	Bream	188
Gold Fish	ib.	Sea Tortoifes	ib.

IV. O F S E R P E N T S.

	Page		Page
D RAGON	189	Salamander	195
Dart	192	Viper	ib.
Cockatrice	ib.	Frog	196
Asp	ib.	Toad	ib.
Rattle Snake	193		

V. O F I N S E C T S.

	Page		Page
C ATERPILLARS	198	Grass-Hopper	210
Louse	201	Spider and Hornet	ib.
Flea	ib.	Fly, Gnat, and Wasp	ib.
Bee	204	Beetle, & Dragon Fly	ib.
Scorpion	210	Earwig, and Ant.	ib.



1 A Lion



A Lions



2

A Jaccall



3

A
D E S C R I P T I O N
O F
B E A S T S.

B O O K I.

Of Quadrupeds, or Four-Footed Beasts.

THE LION, justly stiled by all writers, *The King of Beasts*, is generally of a dun colour; but not without some exceptions, as black, white, and red, in Ethiopia, and some other parts of Africa and Asia. The hair of some of them is curled, and some long, shagged, and thin. His head is vastly large and strong; his nose thick, his mouth very wide; his eyes are red, fiery, and hollow, not very round, nor long, looking awry. His fore feet have five distinct claws on each foot, and the hinder but four; all crooked, sharp, and exceeding hard. His sight and smelling are very acute, and he sleeps with his eyes open. He cannot endure fire. When other wild beasts hear his terrible roaring noise, they are all surpris'd with fear, and dare not stir; tho' he is not without his fear of some creatures, such as (is reported) the great Dogs of India, &c. with which they hunt and kill Lions. He is most commonly taken with nets and other snares. Lions are thought to be long lived, because many of them have been found toothless; but this is no certain sign, as it may proceed from their corrupt breath, or other causes.

THE LIONESS, the female of the same kind, is found in the same countries, with the same nature and properties: but has no mane at all, which is proper to the male only, to whose shoulders and neck it is a great ornament.

THE JACKALL, or *Wild Dog*, (commonly
B

3 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

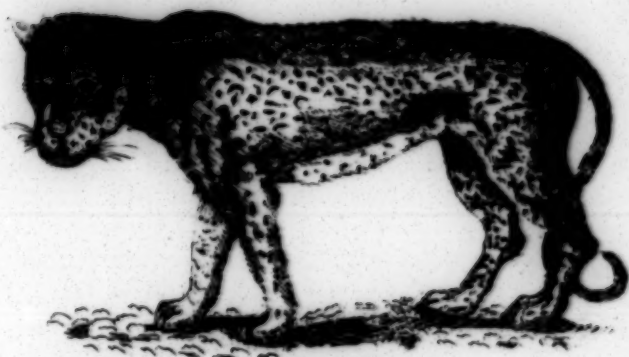
called *the Lion's Provider*,) though not much bigger than a Fox, yet is so fierce and bold, that he seizes on such beasts as Cows, Hogs, Sheep, &c. and will sometimes attack a man. It is reported, that when this creature seizes his prey, he makes a hideous noise, which gives notice to the Lion, who immediately comes, if within hearing; at whose sight the Jackall goes a little aside, till the Lion has fully satisfied his hunger, and marches off; and then returns to feed on what the Lion has left. His head is like a Fox's and his body like a Badger's.

THE PANTHER is in shape somewhat like a Lioness, but not quite so large. His hair is short and mossy; his skin is of a bright yellow, beautifully marked with round black spots, and is said to send forth a fragrant smell, and bears a great price. He is a very fierce and cruel beast, greedy of blood, very swift, and catches his prey by leaping. It is the nature of this creature, in some places, to hide himself amongst the thick boughs of trees, and to surprize his prey by leaping upon it suddenly. His tongue, in licking, grates like a file.

THE LEOPARD is, both in shape, nature, and colour, very much like a Panther, being spotted like that creature, and is said to be engendered between a Panther and a Lioness.

THE TIGER is in shape somewhat like a Lioness, but has a short neck. His skin is beautifully spotted, not with round spots, like a Panther, nor with several different colours. He is very wild and fierce, exceedingly ravenous, and of a prodigious swiftness. He spares neither man nor beast, but if he can satisfy his hunger with the flesh of beasts, he will not attempt on mankind. They are seldom taken but in defence of their young.

A PANTHER 4



A LEOPARD 5



A TIGER 6







3

5

The Ounce



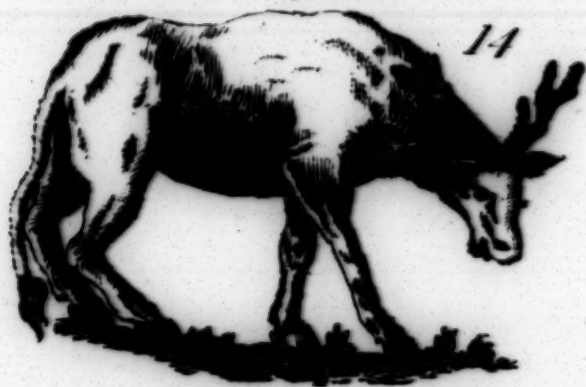
12

A Rampo



13

A Buffalo



14

A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 6

THE OUNCE is a most cruel beast, bred in Lybia, about as big as a Mastiff Dog, his face and ears being like a Lion's, his body, tail, feet, and nails, like a Cat's. He is of a very terrible aspect. His teeth are so sharp and strong, that he can bite wood asunder with them. His claws are a good defence, being, like his teeth, both so sharp and strong, that he fights with them. The colour of the upper part of his body is like whitish Oak, the lower part of an ash-colour, being every where covered with black spots; but his tail more black than the rest of his body, with large spots. He is very ravenous, hates and destroys all creatures he can master, especially men. The gall of this beast is deadly poison.

A ROMPO, or *Man-Eater*, is so called, because he feeds upon dead men; to come at whom he greedily grubs out the earth off their grave, as if he had notice of some body there hid. He keeps in the woods. His body is long and slender, being about three feet in length, with a long tail, at the end of which is an hairy sort of brush. The Negroes say, that he does not immediately fall on, as soon as he has found the body, but goes round it several times, as if afraid to seize it. His head and mouth are like an Hare's; his ears like a Man's; his fore feet like a Badger's, and his hinder feet like a Bear's: He has likewise a mane. This creature is bred in India and Africa.

A BUFFALO has a head like the head of a Hart. His horns are branched and ragged. His body is, for the most part, like a wild Ox's, and, about the same size. His hair is deep and harsh, like a Bear's. His head is so hard and thick, that the Scythians make breast-plates of it that no dart can pierce through. It is reported of this creature, that, when he is hunted, or put into a fright, he will change his colour to the colour of every

7 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

thing he sees; as, among trees he is green, &c. He is bred in Tartary, Poland, &c. He is most valued for his hide, which is much esteemed in all the cold countries, especially in England, whereof our valiant trained bands frequently make their military coat, belt, &c.

THE BULL is a very strong, fierce creature; his strength, in all parts of his body, is very great; but especially about the head and neck. His forehead seems to be made for fight; having short thick horns, with which he can toss up into the air a large dog, &c. which he furiously receives again as it falls, and so gores it sometimes with his horns, that at length he destroys it. Bulls are enemies to all beasts of prey, as Lions, Bears, Wolves, &c. The roaring of a Bull is very dreadful. The Bull is very short lived for his size and strength, scarce exceeding sixteen years.

THE COW is the female of the aforesaid kind; somewhat shorter lived than the bull. She has seldom more than one calf at once; and goes about nine months. Her nature and use being so well known, there needs no farther description.

THE OX is a strong creature, yet very gentle; of great use in husbandry, such as drawing the plow, cart, &c. His flesh is excellent food: his hide is made into leather, for several uses. There are Oxen in all parts of the world. Those of Egypt, about the river Nile, are as white as snow, of exceeding great stature, yet so meek and gentle, that they are easily governed by men. This creature, as well as the Bull and Cow, is of a sluggish and fleshy nature, that easily grows fat, and feeds wholly upon herbage.

A BULL 15

8



A Cow 16



AN OX 17



A Horse, 18*An Ass, 19**A Mule, 20*

A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 10

A HORSE is a very fine stately beast ; and one of the most useful creatures to man. This creature is bred now in most parts of the world. The Horses of Turkey, Arabia, and Persia, are accounted better limbed and proportioned than many others ; but the English race may justly claim the precedence of most European nations, and are not, perhaps, inferior in strength and beauty to those of any other country. The Horse is a sagacious and docile animal, fierce and courageous in war. It is said, that it was very much owing to Horses that the Spaniards gained such large acquisitions in America ; for when first the natives saw a man on Horseback, they thought the man and the Horse to be one individual creature ; which struck them into a very great terror. The Horse shares a middle life, scarce attaining to forty, and usually not to more than twenty ; but this shortness of life he probably owes to man : For the breed of the Sun is now no more, that ranged at large in fresh pasture ; yet the Horse continues growing till six, and generates in old age. The Mare also goes longer with young than women, and but seldom foals double. It is wholly superfluous too nicely and particularly to describe the several parts and properties of this creature, which fall almost under every one's observation.

An **ASS** is a beast of burden, very serviceable to mankind in carrying a man, and such utensils as he pleases to lade him with ; of greater strength than most animals of his size, but of a stupid and sluggish nature. The female is much esteemed by physicians, for her milk in consumptions. This creature is usually of a dun colour, and has the form of a cross upon its back and shoulders. He has nearly the same age as the horse. To be more particular in describing a creature so well known is altogether needless.

A **MULE** is a beast of a mixed nature, engendered of a Mare and an Ass, and resembles an Ass more than a Horse ; having long ears, a cross upon the

11 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

shoulders, small feet, and lean body; but in most other respects it is like a Horse. It does not propagate at all. The Mule is longer-lived than either the Horse or the Ass.

OF BEARS there are two kinds, a greater and lesser; the latter of which is more apt to climb trees. Muscovy, and other Northern countries produce white Bears, for the most part of a very large size. The head of a Bear is his weakest part, as the head of a Lion is the strongest. By a small blow on his head he has often been killed. His mouth is like a Hog's, but longer; being armed with teeth on both sides like a saw. He will not willingly fight with an armed man, but, when he does, he stands upright, and takes the man between his fore feet, and hugs him; but the man, being covered all over with a kind of iron armour, receives no hurt; and may easily, with a sharp weapon, pierce through his heart. He is generally taken with nets, into which he is driven, or allured by stratagem. The Bear is a great sleeper, and a sluggish, indolent creature, yet not observed to be long lived; they rather seem to be short lived, from their very short period of gestation, or going with young, scarce reaching to forty days.

THE ANT-BEAR is a four-footed beast, as big as a pretty large Dog, with rough dark brown hair. It has short legs, a long nose, little eyes, a very little mouth, and a tongue like an earthworm, five or six inches long. It feeds on Ants, and is commonly seen near an Ants nest. It takes its food by laying its nose flat down on the ground, upon or near the path that the Ants travel in; and puts out its tongue across the path, the Ants passing to and fro, when they come to it make a stop, and in a few minutes the tongue will be covered all over with Ants; which the creature draws in suddenly, and so eats them very greedily. It is to be met with in several parts of Armenia.

THE WOLF is a very ravenous creature, and as

A BEAR - 9

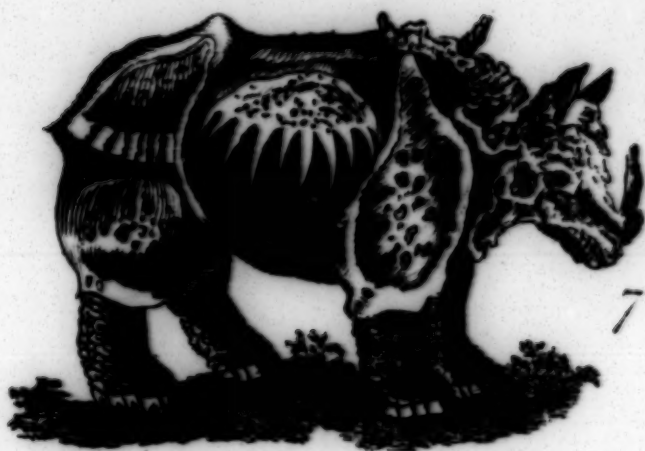


AN ANT BEAR 10



A WOLF 11



A Rhinoceros*An Unicorn*

A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 14

dangerous to meet with, when hungry, as any beast whatever. But when his belly is full, he is to man and beasts as meek as a Lamb. He inhabits the mountains, except in Winter-time, when he roars about the gates of cities and towns; and kills both Sheep and Goats, &c. He is very subtle in seizing and destroying such creatures as are stronger than himself. When he falls upon a Hog, or a Goat, or such small beasts, he does, not immediately kill them, but leads them by the ear, with all the speed he can, to a crew of ravenous Wolves, who instantly tear them to pieces.

THE RHINOCEROS, so called because of the horn in his nose, is bred in India and Africa. His colour is like the bark of a box-tree. He is said to be in shape somewhat like a wild Boar, and not much unlike an Elephant; and near as long, but not so high, having shorter legs. He has two girdles upon his body, like the wings of a Dragon, from his back down to his belly; one towards his back and mane, and the other towards his loins and hinder parts. His skin is so hard, that no dart is able to pierce it, and covered over with scales, like the shell of a Tortoise. His legs are also scaled over, down to the hoofs, which are parted into four distinct claws. The horn upon his nose is so very hard and sharp, crooked towards the crown of his head, that some say it will pierce through iron or stone. He is said frequently to whet his horn against a flint, &c. that he may be prepared whenever he is attacked by an enemy. He is a mortal enemy to the Elephant, whom he seldom meets without a battle; and aims chiefly at his belly, being the softest place, which, if he misses, the Elephant is too hard for him with his trunk and teeth. The naturalists say, that he grunts like a hog. The manner of taking him, being so variously and uncertainly related, I thought it not worth describing.

THE UNICORN, a beast, which, tho' doubted of by many writers, yet is by others thus described: He has but one horn, and that an exceeding rich one, growing out of the middle of his forehead. His head resembles a Hart's, his feet an Elephant's, his tail a Boar's, and the rest of his body a Horse's. The horn is about a foot and a half in length. His voice is like the lowing of an Ox. His mane and hair are of a yellowish colour. His horn is as hard as iron, and as rough as any file, twisted or curled like a flaming sword; very straight, sharp, and every where black excepting the point. Great virtues are attributed to it, in expelling of poison, and curing of several diseases. He is not a beast of prey.

THE FOX is produced in most countries; nor does one of them differ much in size from another, but much in colour. In Muscovy, some of them are black, some white, and others red. The abode of this creature, in the day-time, is in holes of the earth which he is never at the trouble of making; for the Fox, by leaving his excrements in the Badger's hole, or den, thereby takes possession of it for himself, the Badger never caring to come into it any more. The Fox seems well provided for long life, as being well covered, of a greedy appetite, and living under ground, yet he is not observed to be long lived; Doubtless he is of the Dog-kind, which is but short-lived. The male of this species will sometimes couple with a bitch, and the female with a dog. When he is hunted, and the Dogs are ready to take him, he is said to urine upon his tail, and strike it into the faces of the Dogs. And as many as he touches with his pissed tail commonly leave off the chase, unless very good of the kind. But his wiles and stratagems being so numerous, I shall forbear to say any more of him or them.

A RACCOON is a Monkey less than a Fox; is grey-haired, has a large black eye, with whiskers, and nose like a Pig, tail and feet like a Rat, a brownish fur on his back, and a white belly. It is very prejudicial to poultry.

THE SAGOIN is about the size of a Rabbit; of a grizzled colour, a tail like a Rat, feet like a Squirrel, a face almost like a Martin, short round ears, and in other respects like a Monkey. 'Tis bred in Brazil in South-America.

THE BERBE (called by Europeans, *Wine-bibber*, because he is very greedy of Palm-wine) is much like a Cat, only his snout is much sharper, and the body smaller, and spotted like the Civet Cat.

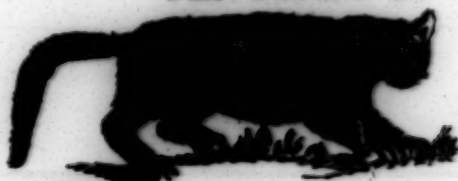
A FOX 21



A RACCOON 22



THE SAGGIN 23



THE BERBE 24



No. 3

31
THE LAMIA



32 THE ELKE



33 THE ALLOCAMELIUS



A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 18

THE LAMIA, concerning which there are many fictitious stories, is, (according to the opinion of some writers,) the creature mentioned in the 34th chapter of *Isaiah*, called in *Hebrew* *Lilith*; as also the same which is mentioned in the 4th of *Lamentations*. It is thought to be the swiftest of all four-footed creatures, so that its prey can seldom or never escape it; and by its fraud it destroys men; for, when it sees a man, it lays open its breast, and entices him to draw near; and, when it has him within reach, it falls upon him and devours him. It is said to be bred in *Lybia*, and to have a face and breasts like a very beautiful woman. It has no voice, but that of hissing like a serpent. Its hinder parts are like a *Goat's*, its fore legs like a *Bear's*; its body is scaled all over. They are said, sometimes to devour their own young.

THE ELKE is twice as big as a *Hart*, and bigger than a *Horse*, in *Norway*, *Sweden*, &c. It is tamed, and put into a coach, chariot, or sledge, to draw men thro' great snows, and upon the ice. It is said to be more swift, and to run more miles in one day than a *Horse* can in two. This creature was formerly used to be presented to princes, and much esteemed for its singular strength and swiftness. Its forehead is broad, and has two very large horns: The female has likewise horns. His neck is short, but thick; his ears and back very long. Its colour is generally like an *Hart's*, but sometimes all white. Its horns weigh twelve or fourteen pounds. There is great virtue ascribed to its hoof in medicine.

THE ALOCAMELUS is a beast of *Peru*; he is about two yards high, and about five feet in length; his head, neck, and ears, are like a *Mule's*, but his neck as white as a *Swan's*, his other parts of a yellowish colour: His body is like a *Camel's*, and feet like an *Ostrich's*. They have no horns. The males discharge their urine backwards.

19 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

A SHEEP is a creature universally known, being one of the chief for human food. Its wool is of great use for cloathing. Most countries have plenty of this creature, but none exceed the English Sheep, They seldom live ten years, tho' a creature of a moderate size, and well covered; and sharing but a very small proportion of gall, yet their coat is exceedingly curled, beyond that of any other animal. The Ram generates not till the third year, and continues fit for generation to the eighth. The Ewe continues to bear as long as she lives. It is a creature subject to diseases, and seldom lives out its full course. She goes with young about twenty weeks.

The African sheep are shaped like ours, but not near so big: They have no wool; but that want is supplied with hair; so that here the world seems inverted, the Sheep being hairy, and the men woolly. They are but a dry and indifferent sort of meat.

THE STREPSICEROS is a kind of Sheep bred in Crete, not unlike our common Sheep, its horns excepted, which grow and shoot straight out like the Unicorn's, being curled about with wreaths, like the Goat's horn. This creature is about as big as a Hart, having likewise red hair.

THE IBEX, taken by some to be a wild Goat, is bred in the Alps. It is of an admirable swiftness, though its head is loaded with horns, as no other beast of its stature wears, being six or seven spans long. His hair and neck are like a Buck-Goats, with a long beard; the other parts of his body resemble those of an Hart. He inhabits the tops of cliffs, rocks, and mountains.

THE MUSMON is not unlike a Sheep, except in the wool, which resembles rather the hair of a Goat. He is bred in Spain and Corsica, and is said to be begotten betwixt a Ram and a Goat. His breast is rough and hairy, his horns bend backwards only to his ears. He has a very short tail, and is not inferior in swiftness to any other beast. He fre-



34
A SHEEP

35 STREPSICEROS



36 IBEX



37 MUSMON



43 THE LYNX



44 THE CHAMELEON



A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 22

quents the steep mountains, and feeds on grass and herbs. His flesh is reckoned very good to eat.

THE LYNX, by some esteemed the same creature with the Ounce, has from others met with this following description: It is about as big as a Lamb of two or three years old: his head, mouth, feet, and nails, are like a Cat's: his beard hangs down on both sides, divided in the middle, being of sundry colours: his tail is short and thick: his ears are erected upright as the ears of a Cat: his colour in the uttermost parts is red; in the innermost white, sprinkled with black spots; and on both sides of his nose there are four spots set in order. In the upper lip, on both sides, are white hairs, rougher than those in a Cat or Lion: he is a quick-moving creature, and hardly ever known to stand still: his skin is esteemed and used by nobles: he is loving and gentle to his keeper, and not cruel to any man.

A CAMELEON is very rare to be seen. It is firmly asserted by some naturalists, that it lives on air. Though others have asserted, from their own experience, as they assure us, that, upon the dissection of this animal, flies have been found in its belly; from whence it seems reasonable to conclude, that, however it may live some time by sucking in the air, yet that is not its only nourishment. It is said frequently to change its colour, very often three or four times in half an hour, which commonly is grey. The colour it mostly changes to is a very fine green, spotted with yellow. Its skin is very thin, and almost transparent. Its tongue is as long as its whole body. It is said to be so timorous, that, when it descends from an height, it moves very cautiously, and curls its tail, by which it can hold fast about something or other in its way, lest it should slip. This creature is like a Lizard.

23 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

THE ROE-BUCK is a beast commonly found in most countries, being a creature of a pretty large size. The male has large branched horns, but the female has none. It is commonly brinded, or sandy on the back, &c. having a black streak down the back. Its tail is about as long as a Calf's. Its belly and sides are spotted with white, which spots it loses in old age. Its flesh is good for nourishment; but its blood, when eaten, occasions melancholy. Its swiftness is very surprizing.

THE HART has his face fleshy, his nostrils flat, his neck very long, his ears pretty large, and horns twenty inches long at most, somewhat branched like those of the Roe-Buck. This creature is bred in many countries, but the British seem to have the preference of most. The Hind, the female of this creature, has no horns. Every year, in the month of April, the Hart sheds, or loses his horns; and having lost them, he hides himself in the day-time in shady places, to avoid the annoyance of flies, and feeds only in the night, till his new horns sprout out and harden: he is a great enemy to all kinds of serpents, which he labours to destroy wherever he finds any, but is afraid of almost all other creatures: his flesh is accounted excellent food, and, as well as his horns, is esteemed good in physic. Little need be said of the pleasure taken in hunting this creature and the Roe-Buck, it being a matter so well known.

THE STAG is vulgarly famed for long life, but upon no certain history. There goes a report of a certain Stag found with a chain about his neck, buried in fat. That he should be a long lived creature seems less probable, because he comes to his full growth at five, soon after which his horns, which are yearly shed and renewed, grow from a narrower basis, and less branching.



45 A ROEBUCK



46 A HART



A WILD BOAR



A Sow





A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 26

THE WILD BOAR inhabits, for the most part, marshes and woods, and is commonly of a black, or brown colour. His tusks, when living, cut like sharp knives; but, when dead, lose their keenness. It is said, when the creature is hunted down, his tusks are so inflamed, that they will burn and singe the hair of the Dogs. His tail is short; and his hind feet are (some say) not cloven, but stand upon one claw. His flesh is very tender, and good for food. The hunting the Wild Boar is dangerous to men and dogs, both having been killed sometimes in the pursuit of this fierce beast.

THE SOW is bred in most parts of the world. Its skin is all over rough and hairy, not so thick as an Ox's, yet much longer and stiffer, standing up on the ridge of the back. This sort of animal differs in colour, according to the several countries wherein it is produced. The Swine in Germany are, for the most part, red; in France and Italy black, and in other parts, of various colours. The snout of this creature is long, strong, and broad, to cast up the earth for its food; having on the tip a rising gristle, round and picked at the end, between the nostrils, wherewith it first enters the ground in digging. Upon its under chap there are teeth which grow out of the head of the male, which the female hath not. For, as the Elephant has two teeth growing downward, so has the Boar two growing upward. As the Horse has his mane, so has the Sow strong bristles on his neck; which neck is broad and thick, wherein lies the strength of the beast. The swine of Italy and Germany, chiefly feeding on acorns, are generally esteemed the best food. The Hog sometimes live to fifteen, or even twenty years; and tho' its flesh be the moistest of all animals, yet this seems to contribute nothing to the prolongation of life. But as for the wild Boar, there is no certain account of him.

27 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

AN APE (the most common sort of which, is that called *Smitten*) is of a pale Mouse-colour, and grows to a wonderful size, some of them being five feet long. They are so bold and mischievous that they will attack a man. The Negroes are so silly, as to believe these Apes can speak, but will not, lest they should be set to work, which they suppose they do not like. Baboons and Monkeys have tails, but the Apes none.

THE BEAR-APE, a very deformed beast of America, has his belly hanging very low; his head and face like a child's; his skin of an ash-colour, and hair like a Bear's; he has but three claws upon a foot, as long as four fingers, whereby he climbs up the highest trees, and for the most part lives upon the leaves of a certain tree common in those parts. He will not eat the flesh, nor attempt the life of man; but, when tamed, is very fond of mankind. He does not seem wet, though he has been long in the rain.

THE FOX-APE is in the fore part like a Fox, and in the hinder part like an Ape. Under the common belly she has a skin like a bag, wherein she keeps, lodges, and carries her young, till they are able to provide for themselves. Neither do they come out of that receptacle, except it be to suck the Dam, or sport themselves; so that it is the best shelter against all their enemies. They are exceeding swift in running with that load, as if they had no burden at all.

40 THE APE



41 THE BEAR APE



42 THE FOX APE

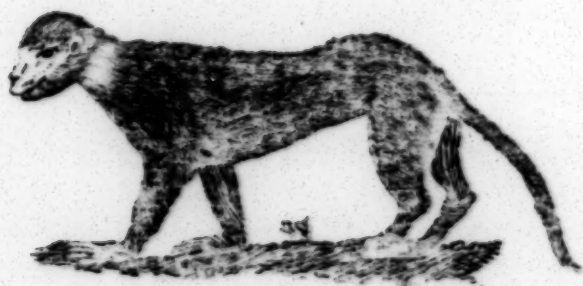


29

38
THE BABOON



39 MONKEYS



A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 30

THE BABOON is commonly black and hairy, rough skinned, has red and bright eyes, a long face like a Dog's; but his teeth are both longer and stronger. His fore feet are armed with very strong nails. He is very swift, and hard to be taken. Some of them delight in fishing, and will stay a great while in the water hunting for fish, which they catch in great abundance, and lay up in store. The ancient Egyptians held these creatures in great veneration, and kept them in their temples. He is a lover of Sheep and Goats, and drinks their milk. He knows, as well as a man does, how to take the kernels out of nuts. He will also drink wine, and eat human food. He is very surly and ill natured. He will imitate a great many human actions; loving, as it is said, wonderfully to wear garments, and will, of his own accord, cloath himself with the skins of such creatures as he kills. He will stand upright, or sit down, and in many things will behave as if he had some degree of rational understanding.

MONKEYS are bred in many countries, and are of various sorts and sizes. There are some in the East Indies finely spotted. Monkeys, when wild, feed chiefly upon nuts, apples, &c. but when tamed, will eat many sorts of human food. They are very expert at climbing, mischievous and unlucky; and participate much of the subtle nature of Apes and Baboons.

THE HYENA, of which there are several sorts, is, in Cefarea, about the size of a Fox; it has bristles like a Horse's mane on its back. It is said it can change the colour of its eyes at pleasure, a thousand times in a day. When it is very hungry, it enters the graves of men, and eats their dead bodies; yet its flesh, in Syria, Damascus, &c. is eaten by men. It is, in shape and Colour, very like a Bear; and is thought to be engendered of a Bear and a Dog. It is a beast of great subtilty, that barks and makes a hideous noise in the night. This creature is said, when it goes to drink of the river Nile, to take a sup and away, for fear of the Crocodile.

THE MANTICORA, or, (according to the Persians,) Mantiora, a devourer, is bred among the Indians; having a triple row of teeth beneath and above, and in bigness and roughness like a Lion's, as are also his feet; face and ears like a man's; his tail like a Scorpion's, armed with a sting, and sharp pointed quills. His voice is like a small trumpet, or pipe. He is so wild that it is very difficult to tame him; and as swift as an Hart. With his tail he wounds the hunters, whether they come before or behind him. When the Indians take a whelp of this beast, they bruise its buttocks and tail, to prevent its bearing the short quills; then it is tamed without danger.

AN ANTELOPE is as large as a Goat, of a chestnut colour, and white under the belly. His horns are almost straight from his head up, tapering gradually, with rings at a distance from one another, till within an inch and a half of the top. He has fine large black eyes; a long and slender neck, feet, and legs; and a body shaped like a Deer. There are many in a herd; when, at the same time, they have scouts, who, by running, give them notice of an approaching foe. They are generally shot, &c. being too swift for a Grey-hound.

28 THE HYENA

32



29 THE MANTICORA



30 AN ANTELOPE



25 A PORCUPINE



26 A BADGER



27 A HEDGE HOG



A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 34

A PORCUPINE grows to the height of about two feet and a half. Its bite is so sharp, that no wooden work, as some say, can withstand it. It is so daring, that it will encounter the most dangerous snake. When it is provoked, it shoots its quills, which are about two spans long, at a man or beast, with such violence, that, if they happen to hit on a board, they will stick in it; which discharge of those sharp weapons of artillery that nature hath provided for its defence, if too often repeated, tends to its own destruction. Its flesh, in those countries where it breeds, is esteemed by the natives as good food.

A BADGER is of two kinds; one sort like a dog, the other like a sow: They differ likewise in the shape of the snout, the one resembling a Dog's, the other a Hog's; the former eats flesh and carrion, like a dog; the latter, fruit and roots like a sow. They are about as big as a Fox, but of a shorter and thicker body. Their skin is hard and rugged; their hair harsh and stubborn: their backs broad; their legs longer on the right side than the left. Their teeth are prodigious sharp; and, when they fight with a dog, they use their teeth and nails which are both very sharp.

A HEDGEHOG is about the bigness of a Rabbit, but more like a Hog; being covered all over with sharp thorny hair, as well as on the face and feet, and those sharp prickles covered with a kind of soft moss; but, when it is angry, or gathers its food, it strikes them by natural instinct, as sharp as pins or needles. They have two holes under their tail to discharge their excrements; which no creature living has besides. His common food is apples, worms, or grapes. It is reported, that when he finds apples on the ground, under the trees, he rolls himself upon them, until he has filled all his prickles, and then carries them to his den; never having above one in his mouth. When he is appre-

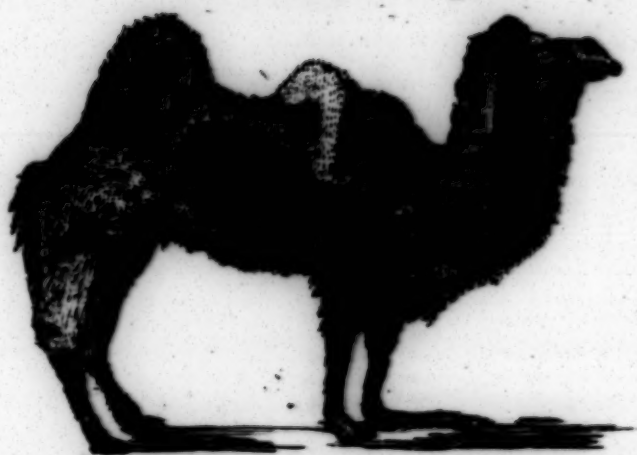
35 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

hensive of danger, he draws himself up as round as a foot-ball ; so that nothing appears but the prickles.

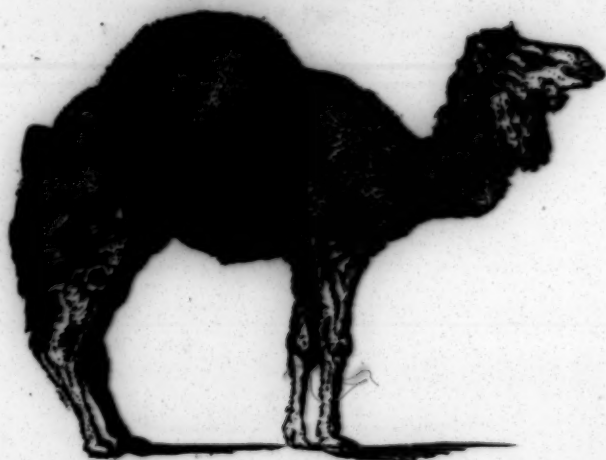
THE CAMEL, of which there are divers sorts, is distinguished according to the different countries which produce this animal. In India it is said to be bred on the mountains ; and hath two bunches on its back, and one on its breast. Their colour is for the most part brown ; yet there are herds of white. Their feet are fleshy like a Bear's, and are shod with leather when travelling. There is an herb, which has a seed like a myrtle seed, that is poisonous to Worms, yet is food for Camels. They will not drink clear or clean water, but that which is slimy or muddy. They will endure thirst for some days ; for which reason they are more useful for travellers than Horses, in the Lybian or Arabian deserts : When they drink, they take a very large quantity. The Camel is long-lived ; a lean finewy creature, that commonly reaches to fifty, and sometimes to a hundred. They are said to be so chaste, by natural instinct, that the male will not cover his dam. Of their hair is made camblet. Camel's milk is the thinnest of all others ; and is therefore very wholesome for food. There are several medicinal virtues in Camels. These creatures are produced in great plenty in Arabia.

THE DROMEDARY is like a Camel, of less stature, but much swifter ; and has but one hard bunch on its back. It cheweth the cud. It is a very tall, large creature. Its upper lip is cloven in the middle like a Hare's, and it has two broad nails, on its feet, which in the upper part appear cloven, but underneath whole, round, and fleshy, without division. It has a hard bunch on its breast, whereon it leans, sitting down and rising ; and also one upon each knee. It is said to live fifty or sixty years. This creature was formerly used to draw a chariot, and presented to princes ; and, in time of war, every one carried two archers, who sat back to back, shooting their

A CAMEL 49



A DROMEDARY 50



THE BISON



WHITE SCOTISH
BISON



A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 38

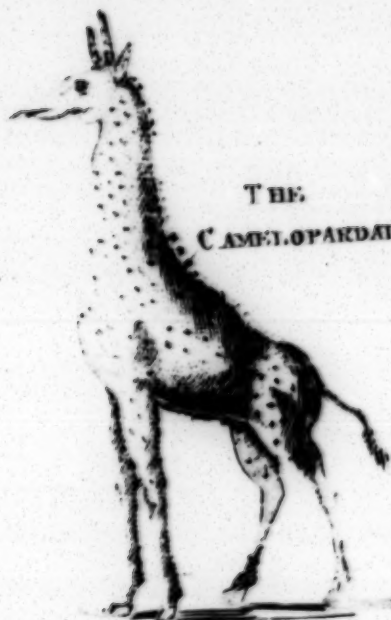
darts, one against the front of the enemy, and the other against the followers. It is said to travel an hundred miles in a day, and to carry a burden of fifteen hundred weight, it bends its knee, like the Camel, to take up its load and rider.

THE BISON, or wild Ox, is bred chiefly in the northern parts of the world, viz. Muscovy, Scythia, &c. He is as big as a Bull or Ox; being maned about the neck and back like a Lion; and his hair hanging down under his chin, or nether lip, like a large beard; and a rising, or little ridge, down along his face, from his forehead to his nose, very hairy: his horns are large, very sharp, and turning towards his back, like those of a wild Goat on the Alps. He is of such great strength, that he can (if some writers may be believed) toss a horse and his rider. With his tongue, which is hard and rough, like a file, he can draw a man to him, whom by licking he can wound to death. His hair is red, yellow, or black; his eyes are very large and fierce. He smells like a Musk Cat. His flesh is very fat in summer-time, but not good to eat, being strong. The blood is thought to be the purest in the world, in colour excelling any purple.

THE White Scottish BISON, or Wild Ox, is maned about the neck like a Lion, but in other parts like a common Ox. The animals of this kind once overspread the woods of Callender or Calder; but now they are all slain, except in that Scottish part which is called Cumirnal. The Bison is said to dread and abhor mankind to that degree, that he will not feed on any grass or herbs, if he can discern by his smell a man has touched them, at least for many days together. If he meets a man, he presently makes at him, fearing neither dogs nor spears, nor any kind of weapons. He is excellent food; and used formerly to be very acceptable to persons of the first rank.

THE CAMELOPARDAL is bred in Ethiopia, India, Georgia, &c. The head of it is like a Camel's; its colour, for the most part, red and white, beautifully mixed together, and the skin full of spots. It has two little horns upon its head, of the colour of iron; a small mouth, like a Hart's; a tongue near three feet long, and a neck of divers colours, of a very great length, which it holds higher than a Camel's, and is far above the proportion of its other parts: its fore feet are much longer than its hinder. Its pace is different from all other beasts; for it moves right and left feet together. This creature is like both a Camel and a Panther. The skin of this beast is very valuable. It is a solitary beast, and keeps in the woods, if it be not taken when it is young. It is very tractable, and easy to be governed, so that a child may lead it; with a small line or cord about its head. The flesh of this creature is good meat.

THE REIN DEER of Lapland, is somewhat bigger than a Stag; with horns branching out into several small ones; feet thick, like a Bull's; colour near an ash, but white on the belly and haunches. It resembles an Ass more than a Stag. Though its hoof be cleft, it does not chew the cud. It is naturally wild, but tamed for domestic service, such as drawing a sledge, cart, or carrying burdens. In the summer-time it feeds on grass, and the leaves of trees; and at other times on a sort of white moss, which that country abounds with: when the mountains are covered with snow, it scrapes out this moss with its feet. It goes a-rutting about the middle of September, and goes with young ten months, and breeds one at a time. It is at its full growth at four years, and seldom lives above ten. With the milk of this creature they make cheese, but no butter.



THE
CAMELOPARDAL. 39



A REIN DEER 60

61



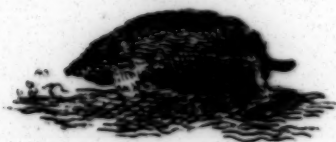
A HARE

62



A RABBIT

63



A MOLE

A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 42

THE HARE has every limb and part of it made for swiftness. Its hinder legs are longer than its fore legs. It always looks backwards when pursued. It has, like all fearful and unarmed creatures, long ears; that, from the advantage of hearing, it may avoid its enemy by flight. The Hare and Rabbit scarce last seven years; they are both great breeders, and have many young at once. They differ in this, that the Rabbit lives under ground, and the Hare above; and that the flesh of the Hare is the darkest.

THE RABBIT is bred in most countries, but few have greater plenty of them than England. It is almost like a Hare, except in its head and tail, which are shorter; and in its colour, which is brighter. There are Rabbits of several colours, as white, black, &c. The Rabbit begins to breed in England at a year old, and bears every month, or, at least, seven times in a year. Its skin is much esteemed for several uses, as its flesh is for food. The male will kill the young if he can get at them; to prevent which, the female covers her litter with gravel or earth.

THE MOLE is about the bigness of a Rat. Its snout is like a Hog's; its feet are like a Bear's; and legs short; its toes, with which it digs up the earth, have sharp nails. It lives in the earth upon Worms. It has no ears that can be discerned; yet it hears in the ground perfectly well. It is generally of a blackish colour, with short smooth hair, and soft as wool. Its eyes are commonly shut or covered.

43 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

THE English BLOOD-HOUND is larger than the Beagle, or any other hunting Hound. It is of the colour of other hounds, being red and brown. It has long ears, and seldom barks except in hunting, and then will follow its game through woods, thickets, &c. and never leave what it is in pursuit of, for any other, till it kills; which it seldom fails to do. It is employed in hunting the Hare, Fox, Hart, Badger, &c.

THE SPANIEL is another kind of smelling dog, very docile, that may be taught to do very surprising tricks, such as fetching, carrying, &c. There are two sorts, the one called a Water Spaniel, and the other a Land Spaniel; the first of these is very excellent at hunting Otters, Ducks, &c. and will watch the stroke of a gun, and, as soon as the fowler shoots a fowl in the water, will instantly go after it, and bring it to his master.

THE LAND-SPANIEL is used in setting for Partridges, hawking, &c. and, in regard to its usefulness for such kind of sport, is esteemed and valued more than most other Dogs. The colour and size of this creature are so well known, that there need be no more said about them.

THE DOG is a short-lived creature, that lasts not above twenty years, and seldom sees fourteen: he is hot, and lives unequally; as being often in violent motion, and then sleeping. The Bitch has many young ones at a litter, and goes with them nine weeks.

44



54

A BLOOD HOUND



55

A WATER SPANIEL



56

A LAND SPANIEL

45

A MASTIFF

51



A BULL DOG

52



GREYHOUND

53



A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 46

THE MASTIFF-DOG is the largest of the whole species, vastly strong and fierce, chiefly used for guarding houses, especially in country places, against thieves and robbers; and sometimes by drovers, and oftentimes for the baiting of beasts.

THE BULL-DOG is much less than the Mastiff, but not inferior in fierceness. He has a pretty large head, neck, and breast. Those of a brinded colour are accounted the best of the kind. This creature will naturally run at, and seize the fiercest Bull, without barking; running directly at his head, and will sometimes catch hold of his nose, and pin the Bull to the ground, and make him roar in a terrible manner; nor can he, without great difficulty, be made to quit his hold. Two of these dogs let loose at once, are thought to be a match for a bull, three for a bear, and four for a lion.

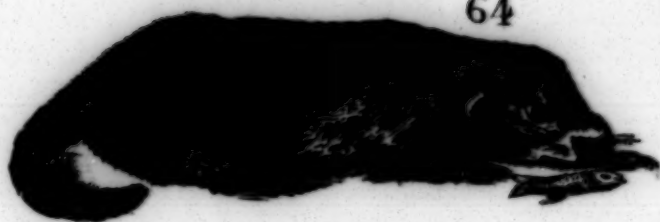
A GREY-HOUND has a long body, a neat sharp head, a full eye, a long mouth, sharp teeth, little ears, with thin gristles in them, a straight neck, and a broad strong breast; his fore legs are straight; his hind legs also long and straight; his shoulders broad, ribs round, strong, and full of sinews, and taper about the belly. He is the swiftest of all Dogs. The best time to train him to his game, is at twelve months old. He courses by sight, and not by scent, as other Hounds do. He is said to outlive all other kinds of Dogs.

AN OTTER is an amphibious animal, that lives both on land and in water, yet never goes into the sea. They abound in all nations where there are rivers, or fish-pools, as Italy, France, Germany, England, &c. it is less than a Beaver, and resembles it in most parts, except in the tail. It has a rough skin, and the hair of it is very soft and neat, like the hair of a Beaver, and of a chefnut colour. Its feet and tail are like a Dog's, and teeth very sharp. Though it lives in and upon the water, yet it is forced to take breath. They are exceeding swift in pursuit of their prey, which is mostly fish, with which they fill their dens so full that it stinks so as to corrupt the air. In the winter-time they live chiefly upon land, and feed upon fruit, bark of trees, &c. It is hunted with Dogs, and by men with sharp spears.

THE BEAVER builds a house as the Musk Rat, only much larger; and with timber makes dams over narrow rivers, to catch fish, by standing to watch them thereon, and jumping upon them on a sudden. They are very subtle creatures, and there is an orderly government among their species. In their works each knows his proper business and station; and the overseers beat those young ones that loiter, and make them work stoutly. He is about the size of a Fox or a Badger: his head is short; his ears are very small and round; his teeth very long; the under teeth standing out beyond his lips three fingers' breadth, and the upper about half a finger's, being very broad, crooked, sharp, and strong: his fore-feet are like a Dog's, his hinder like a Goose's; but the tail is the most strange of all, being covered over with a skin like the scales of a fish, and is in shape like a foal, about six fingers broad, and half a foot long. It lives both in the water, and on the land.

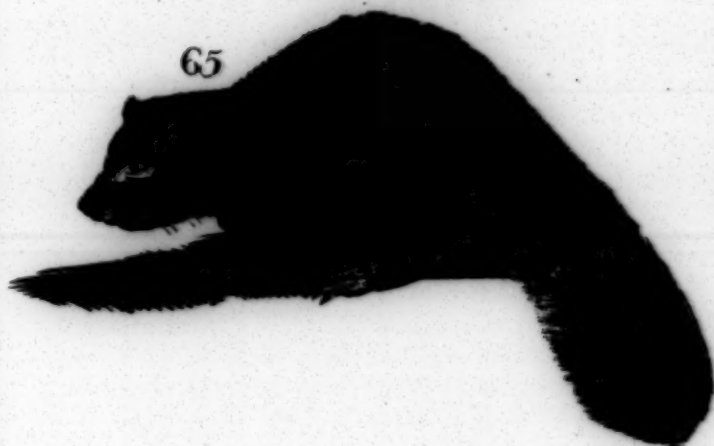
AN OTTER

64



THE BEAVER

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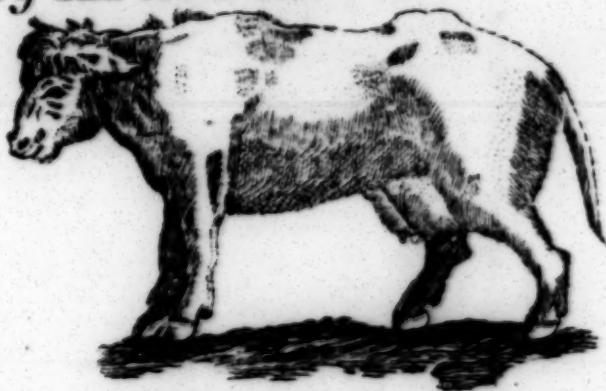


186

68 THE SEA HORSE



69 THE MOUNTAIN COW



A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 50

THE SEA-HORSE lives as well on the land as in the water. It is shaped like an Ox, but somewhat bigger, weighing fifteen or sixteen hundred weight. It is covered with hair of a Mouse-colour, and very sleek. The head is flattish on the top: It has no horns, but large lips, a wide mouth, and strong teeth; four of which, viz. one in each jaw, are longer than the rest, being four or five inches long. It has large broad ears, great goggle eyes, a thick neck, strong legs, but weak fetlocks. Their hoofs are cloven in the middle; the tail short, tapering like a Sow's. It is very good meat. He grazes on shore, and dungs like a horse; but retires to the water if pursued, and will sink down to the bottom, though very deep, and there walk as on dry ground.

THE MOUNTAIN-COW, (according to Captain Dampier) is as big as a bullock of two years old, and shaped like a Cow; but has a much larger head, without horns: her nose is short; her eyes are round, full, and of a prodigious size. She has great lips; and her ears are in proportion to her head: her neck is thick and short, and her legs shorter than ordinary. She has coarse thin hair, and a pretty long tail, but no bunch of hair at the end: her hide is near two inches thick, and her flesh red, and very wholesome meat. This beast never feeds in pasture, like other Cows, but upon long grass, or moss, on the banks of rivers. When her belly is full she lies down to sleep by the water-side, and at the least noise slips into the water, where sinking down to the bottom, though very deep, it is said she walks as on dry ground. She is bred near the bay of Honduras, in America.

51 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

THE CIVET CAT requires a large share of trouble and attendance to breed it up. Its food is pap, boiled or made of millet, with a little flesh or fish. It produces Civet, even when very young; of which that of the male is greater and better than that of the female, because the latter cannot avoid urining into the Civet bag, which spoils it.

THE GENNET CAT (so called, as some suppose, from its likeness to a common Cat,) is in size between a Cat and a Fox. The skin, wherein there is abundance of spots, is very beautiful; the shining brightness and splendor of it not being inferior to that of any other creature. It is meek and gentle, except when provoked; and is suffered, in Constantinople, to go up and down from house to house, like a common Cat. The wild of this species keep in valleys and marshy places.

THE FITCH, or POLE CAT, differs from the Wild Cat on account of its strong and stinking smell. Its skin is stiff, harsh, and rugged, and lasts long in garments. Its tail is not above two hands long. Its breast, tail, and legs, are of a blackish colour, but the belly and sides yellowish. It keeps in the tops of houses and secret corners, and devours Hens, Chickens, &c. by biting off their heads, to prevent their crying. Some Pole cats wander and keep in woods, and live upon birds; others, by the sea side and rocks, feed upon fish.

THE common HOUSE-CAT is, in all parts, like a Lioness, except in her sharp ears: her skin is soft and smooth; her tongue, in licking, is rough like a Lion's, her teeth are like a saw; her nails are sheathed like the nails of a Lion; striking with her fore feet both Dogs and other things, as a man doth with his hand. The age of the Cat terminates between six and ten; a nimble creature, abounding in spirit, that eats voraciously, and swallows without much

70 ACIVET CAT

52



71 AGENNET CAT



72 APOLE CAT



73 A
COMMON CAT



74 MICE



75 A RAT



76 A MUSKRAT



77 THE LAND TORTOISE



A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 54

chewing. She catches her prey by leaping. The Cat is neat, cleanly, and a very useful domestic creature.

MICE are of various colours; but mostly ash coloured. In Savoy, and some parts of France, there are white mice. They also differ in size. Their hearts are very large; and their liver and lights (according to some writers) increase in the winter, the fibres in them increasing and decreasing with the moon; for every day of the moon's age, there is a fibre increased in their liver; which gave occasion to the observation, The moon feeds Oysters, fills Hedge-hogs, and increases the fibres in Mice. In Africa there are Mice which afford a musky scent, but have no bags like the Civet Cat; whence some think, that the pleasant odours proceed from the skin. Their place of living, food, &c. are so well known, that it is needless to trouble the reader any farther about them.

A RAT somewhat resembles a Mouse in its shape, but is four times as big, being of a dusky colour, more white under the belly; having a long head, short and round ears, short legs, long claws, very large eyes, and a long tail, almost void of hair, and accounted venomous. What has hitherto been described is the Land-Rat. There is also a Water-Rat, which has holes by the water-side, and feeds upon fish. It is in all respects like the Land-Rat, except in the snout, which is rounder and blunter.

THE MUSK-RAT is said to be shaped like one of our Water-Rats, but larger. It has a fine musky scent. It builds in the marshes, by the water-side, with two or three ways into them; and is finely daubed within, having three lodging-rooms, very neat, one higher than another. It is thought to live mostly on fish.

THE LAND TORTOISE lives upon grass;

moves very slowly; and if any thing comes near its head, draws it under the shell, which is so strong, that nothing can hurt it. It also draws in its fore legs with its head; so that all is secured. It will carry a man on its back. Its flesh is eaten. It appears like Buffalo, and makes good broth.

THE WILD GOATS are dispersed into many countries beyond the seas, the Alps, Italy, &c. It is said, that on the top of the Lybian mountains there are Goats of a monstrous size, whose horns hang crooking backwards to their shoulders, not like other Goats. This sort of Goats is said to be very dexterous at climbing, and leaping from the top of one craggy hill to another, sometimes at a very great distance, and seldom or never receiving hurt from falls. They are remarkable in their care of their young; which care, when the dam grows old, is returned with a becoming gratitude by the young, when grown up, bringing them both food and water. The male of this animal differs not from the female either in horn, colour, or proportion. In the summer-time these are red, and in the winter brown.

THE GOAT approaches the Sheep in age, and almost every thing else, tho' a more nimble creature, and of a somewhat firmer flesh; whence he should seem longer lived; but he is much more falacious, and therefore shorter lived.

THE ELEPHANT is bred in the hot East and South countries: That of India is the largest, being about thirteen feet high, and seven broad; and is much the largest of all land animals. It is for the most part of a mouse colour, or black. The skin is so hard, that a sharp sword cannot penetrate through it, especially on the back; the most tender part being under the belly. Its eyes are like

A MOUNTAIN GOAT



67 GOATS



Old Elephant 66

Swine's. It has four teeth on each side, with which it grinds its meat like meal; besides these, it has two others which hang out beyond the rest; in the male downwards, in the female upwards: Those of the male are the largest; those of the female are smaller, but sharper. One of them it keeps always sharp, to revenge injuries; and with the other it roots up trees and plants for its meat. The teeth of the male of this beast grow to be ten feet long; some Elephants' teeth have been seen, that (they say) have weighed singly three hundred pounds weight. The teeth of the female are reckoned more precious than those of the male. These they lose once in ten years; which falling off, they carefully bury in the earth, (as is thought) on purpose that men may not find them. The two teeth hanging out beyond the rest are ivory. The Elephant's tongue is very small, but broad: his trunk, through which he draws breath, serves him as a hand to receive his food; it is crooked, grissly, and flexible. At the root, next to the nose, in the trunk, are two passages, one into his body and head, by which he breathes, and the other into his mouth, whereby he takes in his food. With this he fights in war, and can take up a small piece of money from the ground. It has joints in its legs, which it can bend at pleasure. Its feet are round like a Horse's and vastly broad. It is a great lover of wine, and will drink, (if fame be true) about fourteen gallons at a time of either wine or water. It goes with young according to some writers, three years, and others, but two years; and brings forth but one at a time, and that but little bigger than a Calf, and grows till thirty. When it crosses a river, the dam takes her young up with her snout, with which she grasps it, and carries it safe over. The female is more strong and courageous than the male, and will bear a greater burden; but in war the male is more graceful, because taller. When he is most loaded,

59 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

he will go swift; and can carry a wooden tower upon his back, and thirty men, with their ammunitions and provisions of war. He is one of the most docile of all animals, and may be taught to do many things. If they receive no hurt, they will live a hundred years, and sometimes two hundred. The blood of the Elephant is observed to be the coldest of all animals.

THE OPOSSUM is in shape and size something like our Badger, but of a lighter dun colour; with a long tail like a Rat's, but thicker. The skin of its belly is very large, and folded so as to meet like a purse, wherein it secures its young, while little; which will naturally run thither. In this false belly it will carry its young. It feeds upon fish. It is bred in Virginia.

THE POTTO (so called by the Negroes, but by the English, *Sluggard*, from his lazy sluggish nature, a whole day being little enough for him to advance ten steps forward) is said, when he climbs a tree, not to leave it till he has eaten up, not only the fruit, but the leaves also, and then descends fat and in good case; but before he can get up another tree, he becomes very lean, at least, if he does not perish with hunger. He is such a horrible ugly creature, that scarce any thing besides can be found so disagreeable.

THE COATI MONDI is an animal of Brazil, having a snout of about a foot long; which is much bigger in proportion than any other part of his body. His eyes are small, like a Pig's; and his ears round, like those of a Rat. The fore feet have each five toes; those of the fore paws are longer than those of the hinder. His hair is short, rough, knotty, and of a blackish colour on the back; and the rest of the body a mixture of black and red.

THE TATUS, or ARMADILLIO, is bred in

78 OPOSSUM

60



79 THE POTTO



80 COATI MONDI



81 THE TATUS



82 FOX
SQUIRREL



FLYING
SQUIRREL



GROUND SQUIRREL



ENGLISH
SQUIRREL



83 WEESIL



A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS. 62

Guinea and the West Indies. He is covered with a hard shell, like the fins of a fish, which seems to be buckled to his back, like a coat of armour, within which the beast draws up his body, as a hedge-hog does within his prickled skin. He is not much bigger than a little Pig, resembling that creature in his snout, ears, legs, and feet. His tail is very long, like a Rat's; and covered all over with a scaly shell. His mouth is wider than a Sow's. Upon his fore feet are four toes, and upon his hind feet five toes.

OF SQUIRRELS there are three kinds, bred in Virginia. The first is the great Fox Squirrel, much larger than the English, and grey; this sort is very common, and as good to eat as a Rabbit. The second is the Flying Squirrel, of a light dun colour, and less than the English. The skin, on each side of the belly extended, is very large, betwixt the fore leg and hind leg, which helps it in skipping from one bough to another. This sort, though less, will leap farther than the Fox Squirrel. The third is the Ground Squirrel, a little bigger than a mouse, finely spotted, like a young Fawn. The English Squirrel is about the size of a Weasel, but hardly so long. Its head, tail, and colour, are much like those of a Fox. It will, like other Squirrels, leap from bough to bough, crack nuts, feed on fruits and vegetables; and is very acceptable to the ladies.

THE WEASEL has a long and thin body. There are some of this species of different colours, as red, brown, black, and some all white. There are two sorts, one a domestic Weasel, living in houses, barns, &c. the other wild, living in the woods and mountains. In the northern parts of Europe there are prodigious quantities of white Weasels. The ladies of the first rank in Russia cloath themselves with their skins, instead of ermine, which is very costly. The domestic Weasels kill and destroy Rats, Mice,

63 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

and Moles; as also Hens, Chickens, Eggs, &c. There's nothing more strange than what is reported of their conception and generation; for they are said to engender at the ear, and bring forth their young at the mouth.

LIZARDS are of various species; some of the largest having a tail about a foot long, and a hand broad. The Lizard is of a dark colour, but half the head is red. There are some other sorts of Lizards which are green, and some grey; the last much less than the first; and these are suffered to creep up and down the chambers (at the Guinea factories) cleansing them from all vermin: these, according to some are called *Salamanders*. Lizards are bred in Spain, Portugal, &c.

THE FERRET is a bold creature, an enemy to all others, but those of its own kind. It is in size and make somewhat like a Weasel. It breeds in England, but not in several other countries of Europe. Here it is tamed, to hunt Rabbits out of their holes in the earth; but it is put in always muzzled, lest it should kill them, and suck their blood in their burrows, which it is very greedy of. Its head is little, like a Mouse's, and its eyes very fiery. The tame of this species, live upon milk, barley, bread, &c. and the wild upon the blood of Rabbits, Hares, Hens, Chickens, and other creatures, that they can surprize and overcome.

THE MARTIN is about the bigness of a Cat, having a longer body, but shorter legs, with head and tail like a Fox's. Its skin is somewhat brown, with white on the throat, and yellow on the back. Its teeth are exceeding white and unequal, one longer than another, and most prodigious sharp. In the nether chap stands six small eating teeth, in a right line over-against one another, which don't happen in a-

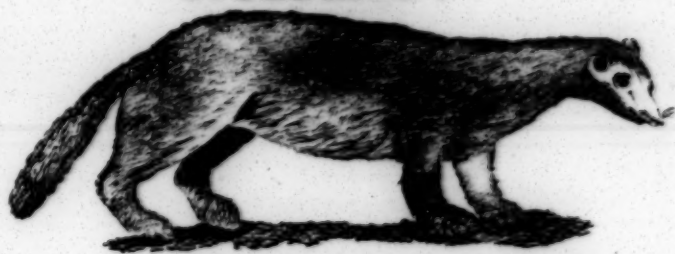
84 A LIZARD



A GREEN LIZARD



85 A FERRET



86 A MARTIN



87 A CROCODILE



ny other beast. The grinding teeth are like those of a saw, triangular in fashion, being eight above and eight beneath. It is bred in several countries, as France, Italy, Sweden, and Muscovy; but not without some difference: the skin of this creature bears a great price; princes and noblemen being cloathed therewith.

THE CROCODILE is a creature that lives on land and in water. Its colour is like to saffron, that is, betwixt yellow and red, but more inclining to yellow. The belly is somewhat whiter than the other parts. Its body is rough, being covered all over with a certain bark, or rind, so thick, firm, and strong, that it will not yield, (and especially about the back) to a cart wheel, even when the cart is loaded; and in all the upper parts, and the tail, it is impenetrable by any dart, or spear: But the belly is softer, wherein it receiveth wounds more easily. The covering of its back is distinguished into divers divided shells, standing up far above the flesh; but on the belly it is more smooth. The head of this beast is very broad; and its snout is like a Sow's. When it eats or bites it never moves its under chap. The opening of the mouth reaches to the place of its ears. Its teeth are white, long, sharp, a little crooked and hollow. It has sixty joints or bones on the back, which are tied together with so many nerves. The tail is nearly as long as the whole body, and is also rough, and armed with hard skin upon the upper part and sides; but beneath, it is smooth and tender. It hath fins upon the tail, by the benefit whereof it swims; as also by the help of its feet, which are like a Bear's, except that they are covered with scales instead of hair. Its nails are very sharp and strong. It is doubtful whether it hath any place of excrement, except the mouth. By reason of the shortness of its legs, its pace is very slow; and therefore it is not very difficult for a man to escape from it

67 A DESCRIPTION OF BEASTS.

by flight; especially, if he does not go straight forward, but turns and winds out of the direct path; for the Crocodile's body is so hard and stiff, that it cannot easily turn and wind after him. It brings forth young every year; and lays its eggs (which are about as big as a Goose's) in the earth or dry land. During the space of threescore days it lays every day an egg; and within the like space of time they are hatched into young ones, by sitting or lying upon them by course, the male one while, and the female another; which is in a moderate and temperate season; otherwise they perish, and come to nothing. So soon as the young ones are hatched, they instantly fall into the water. The Crocodile is thought to live sixty years: Some have thought that the Alligator is a distinct species from the Crocodile; but it is the received opinion of the Naturalists, that it is no other than a Crocodile not arrived to its full growth. There are many Crocodiles in Egypt, about the river Nile, in the West Indies, &c. Those about the Nile are much the largest; some of them being (according to very credible testimony) not less than thirty feet long.

WITH regard to the length and shortness of life in animals, the information procurable is but slender, observation slight, and tradition fabulous. Tame creatures are corrupted by a degenerate life; and wild ones intercepted by the inclemency of the weather. Neither do the things which may seem concomitant assist us much in this enquiry; as the bulk of the body, the period of gestation, the number of young, the time of growth, &c. these being complicated considerations, that sometimes concur, and sometimes not.



1 THE GOLDEN EAGLE



2 THE SEA EAGLE OR OSPREY



A
D E S C R I P T I O N
O F
B I R D S.

B O O K II.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE is in length, from point of the beak to tip of the tail, about three feet nine inches: the breadth, from tip to tip of the wings extended, is eight spans: the length, from the bill to the talons, is four spans and a half. The bill is very strong, crooked, and exceeding sharp: the tongue is like a man's, broad, round, and blunt at the tip: the feathers of the neck are hard, and of a rusty colour: the eye by nature is very carefully preserved; for, instead of one, as in other animals, it has four lids or covers for it: the wings and tail are of a dusky colour: the other small feathers of the whole body are of a chefnut colour, sprinkled with white spots, fewer on the back, more on the belly; the bottoms of all being white: the legs are of a dusky colour; feathered down to the feet, the feet are yellowish: it has four talons, very sharp and crooked. This fowl is of an extraordinary fierceness, and will assault a Cat, Dog, &c.

THE SEA-EAGLE, or *Osprey*, (which seems to be the same with the English Bald Buzzard) hath been thus described: From the point of the beak to the end of the talons it is about three feet long; from tip to tip of the wings nine spans broad. The bill and the tongue are very much like the Golden Eagle's. From the chin hang down small feathers like hair imitating a beard; whence by some it is called the Bearded Eagle. The feathers of the whole body are party-coloured, being whitish, dusky, and rusty: Its legs are almost wholly covered with dusky feathers, somewhat inclining to yellow: besides the feathers,

the whole body is covered with a white and soft down, as the skin of a Swan: the talons are very black and hooked. This Eagle feeds only on fish.

THE BLACK EAGLE is about twice as big as a Raven. The jaws and eye-lids are bare of feathers, and somewhat reddish; the head, neck, and breast black. In the middle of the back between the shoulders, it has a large white spot dashed with red; the rump red: the lesser rows of feathers in the wings are of a Buzzard colour; then a black streak or bar crosses the prime feathers, after that a white one; the remaining part of the feathers to the tips, of a dark ash colour: the eyes are of a hazle colour: the legs are feathered down a little below the knees, the naked part being red: the talons are very long.

THE Eagle called MORPHNOS, or Morphno Congener, is about the height and bigness of a large dunghill Cock: its beak is pretty long, hooked, and tending almost directly downward: the colour of the feathers is rusty, like that of old iron, except that at the end of the wings it hath many spots. The legs are all over feathered down to the beginning of the toes, and sprinkled with whitish ash-coloured spots: the feet are yellow; the toes above, toward the leg, covered with scales; toward the talons, with round tables.

THE VULTURINE EAGLE, called *Gypætos*, is of a very large size, being not much less than the Golden Eagle, but of an unusual and ridiculous shape; the beak, not, as in other Eagles, bending from the root to the tip, but straight almost to the middle, toward the point bowed into a remarkable hook, after the same manner as in Vultures. The whole head whitish, inclining to dusky (*fuscum*.) The upper part of the neck about half way down, almost bald, beset with very few, and those small feathers, of a white colour. At the end of this bald part, almost in the middle of the neck, grow small feathers, like certain rough curled hairs, standing up above the



3 BLACK EAGLE

71



4 MORPHN'S EAGLE



5 VULTURINE EAGLE

10 MOOR BUZZARD



11 GOS-HAWK



12 SPARROW-HAWK



rest of the plumage, as it were very fine, slender, long bristles. It hath on the back a kind of hood, reaching to the middle thereof, ending in a sharp peak. The colour of the whole body is a dark chefnut, inclining to black; the tail long; the feet and legs white, and the claws dusky.

THE MOOR BUZZARD is less than the common Buzzard, of about the bigness of a crow. The crown of the head is of a clay colour; the whole body, as well lower as upper side, is of a dark rusty colour; only at the middle joint of both wings, there is a spot of the same reddish clay colour with the head; and the feathers at the root or rise of the tail are dun. The tail is about nine inches long, being party-coloured, of a dark and light yellow, or bay; the legs are about a hand-breadth long, feathered down a little below the knee, longer, and slenderer, for the bigness of the bird, than in others of this kind: the legs and feet are yellow, the talons black.

THE GOSHAWK is bigger than the common Buzzard. The colour of the head, neck, back, and upper side of the wings, is of a dark brown: the whole breast and belly white, with transverse black lines, standing very thick; the thighs are covered over with reddish feathers, having a black line in the middle down the shaft; the legs and feet are yellow; the talons black, the back blue: the wings, when closed, fall much short of the end of the train, by which note alone, and its bigness, it is sufficiently distinguished from all other Hawks: the train is long, of a dun colour, with four or five cross blackish bars standing at a great distance from each other. It takes not only Partridges and Pheasants, but also greater fowls, as Geese and Cranes; sometimes also it catches Rabbits.

THE SPARROW-HAWK is about as big as a large Wood-Pigeon. Its beak is short, hooked, blue, and black toward the tip; the tongue thick, black, and a little cleft; the eyes of a mean size; the crown of the head is of a dark brown. Above the

eyes, and in the hinder part of the head, sometimes are white feathers: the bottoms of the feathers in the head and neck are white; the rest of the upper side, back, shoulders, wings, and neck, are of the same dark brown, except some feathers of the wings, which are spotted with white; the colour of the under side, viz. the neck, breast, belly, sides, and wings, is various, of white and blackish, or russet; the wings, when closed, scarce reach to the middle of the tail: the thighs are strong and fleshy; the legs long, slender, and yellow; the toes also long; the talons black. It lays about five white eggs, spotted near the blunt end with blood-red specks. It feeds only upon birds; and, for its bigness, is very bold and courageous.

THE KITE, or *Glead*, is bigger than the common Buzzard; the head and chin are of a pale ash colour, varied with black lines along the shafts of the feathers; the neck is red, the middle part of the feathers being black, the back dusky, or brown, like a Buzzard; the feathers next the tail are of the same colour with it, having their middle parts or shafts black; the lesser rows of wing-feathers are party-coloured, of red, black, and white; the feathers covering the inside of the wings are red, with black spots in the middle; the tail is forked, the colour red, the extreme feathers blackish, and the tips of all are white; the bill is black, the tongue broad and thick; the eyes are great; the legs and feet yellow, the talons black. By this figure of its tail alone it is distinguished from all other birds of prey. Her tail serves her for a rudder, to direct her flight thro' the air, whence some have thought, that men learned the art of steering a ship by this bird. It is a very bold bird, and a great destroyer of young poultry. When it sees a young duck, chicken, &c. far from shelter, or by any other means lying fit and exposed to rapine, it singles it out and flies round for a while, marking it; then of a sudden it darts down, and catches it up before it is aware.

THE MOUNTAIN FALCON is near as big

13 THE KITE



14 MOUNTAIN FALCON



15 THE RED INDIAN
FALCON



16 THE GREAT BUTCHER
BIRD



as the Goshawk, but shorter bodied. It has a round head and breast, a taper crown, and black, encompassed with a kind of ash-coloured coronet: in the forehead, not far from the beak, stand up certain very fine and slender feathers, as it were hairs, among the black and brown ones; which yet are but few, and in some birds none at all: the throat, as far as the breast-bone, is somewhat whitish, besprinkled with great spots; the rest of the breast is beautified with certain marks, which are sometimes of the colour of rusty iron, sometimes red, and sometimes blackish; besides these, it has other smaller specks; the back and loins are covered with small brown feathers. It is said to prey only upon great birds, neglecting the smaller.

THE RED INDIAN FALCON is about the bigness of the Mountain Falcon. Its head is of an ash colour, tending to brown; as is also the neck, the whole back, and the outside of the wings; the whole breast, and also the upper part of the inside of the wings, the belly and the rump, the hips and thighs, are all fulvous, or red, of a pale vermilion colour; but the chin in this red colour is marked with a long ash-coloured spot, produced downwards: the breast also before is sprinkled with small specks of the same colour: the legs and feet are yellow, pretty thick and strong; the talons black and very sharp.

THE great BUTCHER BIRD or *Mattagefs*, in the North of England is called *Werkengel*; in some parts of Germany it is called by a name, which in our language signifies *Ninekiller*, because it is said to kill nine birds before it ceases, or every day nine. It is in bigness equal to the common Blackbird; the head, back, and rump are ash-coloured; the chin and belly white; the breast and lower part of the throat varied with dark lines, crossing each other; the tips of the feathers of the wings are for the most part white; the utmost feathers of the male are all over white, the two middlemost have only their tips white, the rest of the feathers being black: the

78 A DESCRIPTION OF BIRDS.

legs and feet are black. It builds among thorny shrubs, dwarf-trees and bushes: making its nest of moss, wool, and downy herbs, but the bottom of heath, on which it lays soft and tender stalks of hay; and commonly lays six eggs. It feeds mostly on insects, yet doth it often kill small birds.

THE MERLIN is one of the least Birds our Falconers use for Hawking; it being not much bigger than a Blackbird. The back and upper part are party-coloured, of a dark blue and brown; the flag feathers of the wings black, with rusty spots: the train is about five inches long, of a dark brown or blackish colour, with tranverse white bars: the breast and belly are of a rusty white, with brown spots: the legs are long, slender, and yellow; the talons black. Below the head it has a ring of yellowish white, incircling the head like a coronet. In the male the feathers on the rump, next the tail, are bluer; by which note, and its bigness, Falconers discern the sex; for the female in this, as in other birds of prey, is greater than the male, being for colour less red, with a certain mixture of blue. The Merlin, tho' the least of Hawks, yet for spirit, and mettle gives place to none. It strikes Partridges on the neck, with a fatal stroke, killing them in an instant. No Hawk kills her prey so soon.

THE HONEY BUZZARD for bigness equals or exceeds the common Buzzard; and is also like it in figure or shape of body. The head is ash-coloured; the crown flat, broad, and narrow toward the beak: the bottoms of the feathers in the head and back are white: the colour of the back is of a Mouse-dun; the tips of the flag-feathers, as also those in the second and third rows in the wings, are white; the feathers under the chin and tail are white; the breast and belly also white, spotted with black spots; the legs are feathered down below the knee, short, strong, and yellow, as are also the feet: the talons long, strong, sharp, and black. It builds

8 THE

MERLIN

79



No. 10

9 THE HONEY BUZZARD



6 THE VULTURE



7 THE BUZZARD



A DESCRIPTION OF BIRDS. 81

its nest of small twigs, laying upon them wool, and upon the wool its eggs: it runs very swiftly.

THE VULTURE is somewhat bigger than an Eagle. Its beak is large and crooked at the end. It is said, that the Vulture has an excellent sagacity of smelling, above all other birds; so that it can perceive the favour of dead carcases from far. The ancients have delivered, that the Vulture is content only with dead carcases, abstaining from the rapine and slaughter of living animals; but some moderns affirm, that it pursues living birds, and preys upon living Fawns, Hares, Kids, Lambs, &c. Its neck is, for the most part, bare of feathers. The craw hangs down, like a bag, before the stomach, or breast. Under the throat it has a space of about a hand-breadth, clothed rather with hair, like to those of a Calf, than with feathers. That the female, contrary to the manner of other birds of prey, doth not exceed the male in bigness. That all the inside of the wings is covered with a soft fleece of down, which is peculiar to the Vulture alone, among rapacious birds.

THE Common BUZZARD, or Puttock, is about the bigness of a Pheasant, or young Pullet. The head is great, the crown broad and flat, the beak short, hooked, and of a dark blue. Its tongue is thick, fleshy, and blunt, as in the rest of this kind: the colour of all the upper part is of a dark dun, approaching to black, or a rusty black. Some Birds of this kind have many white spots in the covert feathers of the wings, which, when the wings are spread, appear like a white line: the like white spots it hath in the long feathers springing from the shoulders, which cover the whole back: The edges of these feathers are of a dirty yellow; the lower side of the body of a yellowish white: the breast is stained with rusty spots. Between the eyes and nostrils grow long black bristles. On the middle of the back grow no feathers, but only down; for the scapular feathers cover the whole back: the thighs are long, strong, and

fleshy: the legs short, thick, and strong, feathered down a little below the knees: the legs and feet yellow, and covered with scales. It feeds upon Mice, Moles, and Birds, and is a great destroyer of Rabbits. Buzzards' eggs are white, stained with a few great reddish spots; some times all over white without spots.

THE Little BUTCHER Bird, called in Yorkshire, *Flusker*, is about the bigness of a Lark, and hath a great head. About the nostrils and corners of the mouth grow black hairs or bristles: the back and upper side of the wings are of a rusty colour; the head and rump of ash; the throat and breast is white, dashed with red. It builds its nest of grass, bent, and feathers; and lays six eggs, towards the sharper end almost wholly white, towards the blunter end encompassed with a circle of brown, or dark red.

THE CUCKOW is about the bigness of a Magpie; its length, from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, being above twelve inches; the upper chap of the bill somewhat hooked, and longer than the lower, for the most part of a dark or blackish colour; the nether part of a pale or whitish yellow: the inside of the mouth, and the tongue, are of a deep yellow, or saffron colour; the throat, breast, and belly are white; the feathers of the head are of a dark brown, with white edges; the neck and back are brown, with a tincture of red; the rump is ash-coloured; the covert feathers of the wings are of the same colour with those on the back, only the outmost darker. Its feet and claws are yellow; it hath two back toes; it feeds on Caterpillars and other Insects. The Cuckow herself builds no nest, but having found the nest of some little bird, she either devours or destroys the eggs she there finds, and in the room lays one of her own, and so forsakes it; the silly bird returning, sits on this egg, hatches it, and with a great deal of care and toil broods, feeds, and cherishes the young Cuckow for her own, until it be grown up, and ready to fly, and shift for itself: which

83

LITTLE BUTCHER
BIRD



THE CUCKOO

18



Lin

84

24 A RAVEN



25 A CROW



A DESCRIPTION OF BIRDS. 85

thing seems so strange, monstrous, and absurd, that the learned and ingenious Dr. Willoughby, in his Ornithology, published by the learned and ingenious Mr. Ray, declares, that he could not have been induced to believe that such a thing had been done by nature's instinct, had he not with his own eyes seen it.

THE RAVEN is a very large fowl, being in length, from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, about two feet. The bill is long, thick, sharp, and very black; the upper chap somewhat hooked, but not so as an Hawk's; the lower straight, the feathers are black all over the body, having a blue splendour, or gloss, which is seen especially in the tail and wings: the belly is something paler, inclining to brown. It has large crooked claws, feeds on fruits, insects, the carcases of beasts, birds, and fishes; sets upon, and kills, and devours living birds, after the manner of Hawks. Ravens abound in all countries, they being hardy birds, that will easily bear all changes of weather, fearing neither heat nor cold. The Raven lays about five or six eggs before it begins to sit, of a pale greenish blue, full of black spots. This bird is said to live to a very great age, forty or fifty years or upwards.

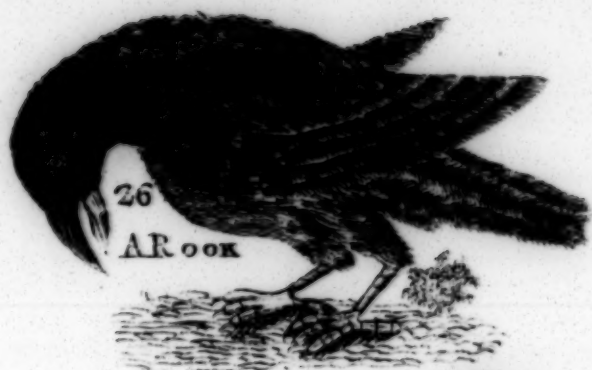
THE Common or CARRION CROW, is less than the Raven, being about eighteen inches in length. The bill is strong, thick, and straight. The colour of the whole body is black, only the bottom of the feathers of a lead or darkish colour. This bird delights to feed upon the carcases of dead animals when they begin to putrify. It kills and devours living birds in like manner as the Raven; moreover, it eateth grain, and all sorts of insects, in England at least. For beyond seas (they say) it meddles with no sort of grain. It builds upon high trees, and lays four or five eggs at a time, like the Raven, but less. The Crow is said to have a very sagacious scent, so that it is difficult to shoot it, the bird smelling the gunpowder afar off.

86 A DESCRIPTION OF BIRDS.

THE ROOK is something bigger than the Crow. It has no crow, but, instead thereof, the gullet below the bill is dilated into a kind of bag, wherein it brings meat to feed its young. Its colour is black, but brighter than that of the Crow. The Rooks build many together, upon high trees about gentlemen's houses, who are much delighted with the noise they make in breeding time. Both cock and hen sit by turns. Their eggs are like a Crow's but less, spotted with great spots. It is said, that when Rooks build, one of the pair always sits to watch the nest till it be finished, whilst the other goes about to fetch materials; else if both go, and leave the nest unfinished, as sometimes they venture to do, their fellow Rooks, ere they return again, will have robbed them, and carried away to their several nests all their sticks, and whatsoever else they had got together. Hence, perhaps, the word *Rooking* is used for cheating or abusing. Young Rooks are good food.

THE JACKDAW is much less than the Crow. It has a large head, and a strong bill. The hinder part of the head, as far as the middle of the neck, inclines to an ash-colour, as also the breast and belly, but less; else the whole plumage is black, with a kind of blue gloss; the fore part of the head is of a deeper black. It feeds upon nuts, fruits, seeds, and insects. Jackdaws usually frequent and build in ancient castles, towers, cliffs, houses, and stone walls, especially if they be desolate and ruinous. They lay five or six eggs, less, paler, and having fewer spots than those of Crows. The Jackdaw may be taught to imitate the human voice like a Magpie.

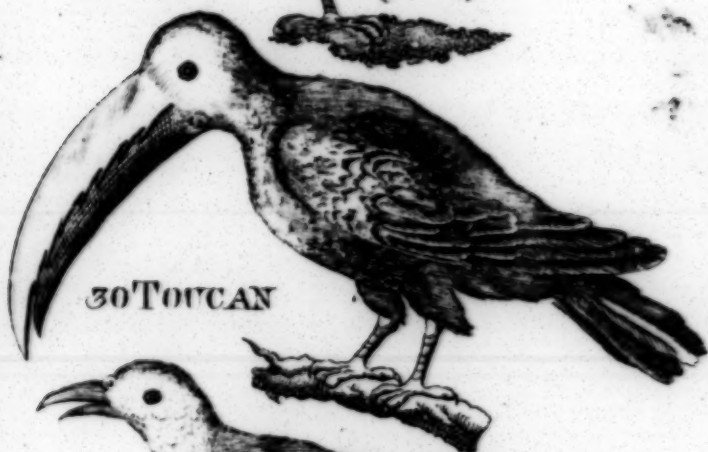
THE MAGPIE is about the bigness of the Jackdaw; and, excepting the whiteness of the breast and wings, and the length of the tail, it is very much like that bird. The head, neck, throat, back, rump, and lower belly, are of a black colour; the breast and sides are white, as also the first joint of the wing; the wings are smaller than the bigness of the body



29 A JAY



30 TOUCAN



31
THE ROLLER



A DESCRIPTION OF BIRDS. 89

would seem to require. 'Tis a very crafty and cunning bird, and may easily be taught to speak, and that very plainly. It builds its nest in trees, with such art and cunning as is admirable, fencing it round on the outside, both above and below with sharp thorns, leaving only one hole, and that a very narrow one, for itself to pass in and out by.

THE JAY is less than a Magpie. The feathers of the head and body of this bird are taller, slenderer, and stand more staring and erect than ordinary. Near the lower chap of the bill are two black spots, on each side one; the chin and lower part of the belly whitish; else the breast and belly are of a colour mixed with ash and red; the rump above is white; the back red, with a certain mixture of blue; the wings are very beautiful, being chequered with black, white, and lovely shining blue lines; the tail is wholly black. Its eggs are of an ash colour, with darker spots, scarce appearing.

THE TOUCANIAN-PIE, or Brazil, is about the size of a Magpie. It is said, that the bill of this bird is thicker and longer than almost the whole body besides; and of a yellowish colour: The head, in proportion to the body, is great and thick, as is suitable and requisite to sustain a bill of that length; the head, neck, and wings are black; the breast shines with a most bright and lovely gold, or saffron colour, with a certain redness near the beginning; the belly and thighs with a most beautiful vermilion: the tail is black, but in the end of a notable red. It is said that this bird, to secure her young from the Monkeys, when she perceives the approach of those enemies, so settles herself in her nest, as to put her bill out at the hole, and gives the Monkeys such a welcome therewith, that they presently pack away, and are glad they escape so.

THE ROLLER is about the bigness of the Jay. Its bill is black, sharp, and something hooked; the head is of a sordid green, mingled with blue; of

which colour is also the throat, with white lines in the middle of each feather : the breast and belly are of a pale blue, like those of a Pigeon ; the middle of the back, between the shoulders, is red ; the rump and lesser rows of covert-feathers of the wings are of a lovely blue ; the feet are short, and like those of a dove, of a dirty yellow colour.

THE PARROT hath a great head, a hard beak and skull. This bird in descending, or climbing up boughs, grates, &c. first catches hold with her bill, as it were with a hook, then draws up her body, then fastens her feet ; then reaching up higher, claps on her beak again, and so puts forward her body and feet by turns. The Parrot only, with the Crocodile, moves the upper jaw, as all other animals do the lower ; the tongue is broad, and resembles a man's : the feet are of singular fashion, for they have not three toes standing forward, and one backward but two each way, like Woodpickers. In wit it excels all other birds. It is said that a Parrot, which fell out of King Henry the eighth's palace at Westminster, into the river Thames, that runs by, then very seasonably remembering the words it had often heard somewhere, in danger or in jest, used, cried out again, *A boat, a boat for twenty pounds.* A certain experienced boatman made thither presently, took up the bird and restored it to the king, to whom he knew it belonged, hoping for as great a reward as the bird had promised. The king agreed with the boat-man, that he should have as the bird being asked anew should say ; and the bird answered, Give the knave a groat. Parrots are bred in the East and West Indies. They breed not in cold countries ; for they are impatient of cold, so that they can hardly bear our winters, unless they be kept in hot places. They are said to be very long-lived. There are several sorts of Parrots, differing both in size and colour : the foregoing description, belonging to Parrots in general, I shall forbear to give a particular description of

A COMMON PARROT

23



WHITE
CRESTED PARROT



MACAO

92

19 HORN

OWL



20
Common OWL



21 GREY OWL



22
Fern OWL



each; but have given the figures of three, viz. the Common, the White Crested, and the Parrot called the Macao.

THE HORN OWL is in length, from the point of the bill to the end of the tail, about fourteen inches; its breadth, measuring from tip to tip of the wings extended, three feet and four inches; the feathers which cover the lower belly and legs are reddish; in the throat and breast, the middle parts of the feathers are black, the outer parts partly white and partly yellow; those under the wings are red: the covert feathers of the wings are party-coloured, of a dark ash and yellow; the back of the same colour with the wings; the horns are above an inch long, consisting of six feathers: the legs and feet are feathered down to the claws, which are black.

THE GREY OWL is bigger than the common Barn Owl. The head, back, wings, and tail, are of an ash-colour, speckled with whitish and black spots. Under the belly the feathers are white, with blackish spots. The head is very great, thick, round, and full of feathers. In other respects, it is like the Common Owl.

THE common BARN OWL, or White Owl, is about the bigness of a Pigeon. Its bill is white, hooked at the end, more than an inch and a half long. This bird hath a circle or wreath of white, soft, downy feathers, encompassed with yellow ones, beginning from the nostrils on each side, passing round the eyes and under the chin, somewhat resembling a black hood, such as women used to wear; so that the eyes appear to be sunk in the middle of these feathers; the breast, belly, and covert feathers of the inside of the wings are white, marked with a few dark spots. The head, neck, and back, as far as the prime feathers of the wings, variously, and of all night birds the most elegantly coloured; the legs are covered with a thick down to the feet; but the toes are only hairy, the hairs also thin set.

THE FERN OWL, or Chum Owl, or Goat Sucker, is a very beautiful bird for colour, being more like a Cuckoo than an Owl; and it is easy distinguished from all other Birds, by the structure of its bill and feet. Its bill, in proportion to its body, is the least of all birds, and a little crooked. It has a huge wide mouth and swallow.

On the sides of the upper chap of the bill, as also under the chin, it has stiff black hairs, like bristles; the under side of the body is painted with black and red; the legs are very small in proportion, feathered on the fore-side half way. It is found in the mountainous woods in many places of England, as in Yorkshire, Derbyshire, &c.

THE Common GREEN WOOD-PECKER, or WOODSPITE, is about the size of the Jay: the top of the head is of crimson, or vermilion colour, spotted with black; the eyes are encompassed with black; under the back, on each side, is another vermilion spot: the throat, breast, and belly, are of a pale green; the back, neck, and lesser rows of covert feathers of the wings, green; the rump, of a pale yellow or straw colour. This bird has a straight, hard, strong, and sharp bill. Its tongue is of a very great length, with which it strikes Ants and other insects.

THE NUTHATCH, or Nutjobber, is less than a Chaffinch: the head, neck, and back are of an ash-colour; the sides under the wings red; the throat and breast of a pale yellow; the lower belly, under the tail, hath some red feathers, with white tips; the chin is white. It builds in the holes of trees, and if the entrance be too big, it doth artificially stop up part of it with clay, leaving only a small hole for itself to pass in and out by. It is a pretty sight to see her fetch a nut out of her hoard, place it fast in a chink, and then standing above it, with her head downwards, striking it with all her force, break the shell, and catch up the kernel.

THE WALL-CREEPER, or Spider-catcher, is bigger than a House-Sparrow. It hath a long, slender, black bill: the head, neck, and back, are of an ash-colour, the breast is white; the wings partly of an ash-colour, and partly red. It is a brisk and chearful bird, and hath a pleasant note. It builds its nest in the holes of trees.

THE OX-EYE CREEPER is a very small bird, scarce bigger than the Copped Wren. It hath a long, slender, sharp bill; the throat, breast, and belly white; the head, back, and wings, inclining to a Fox-colour; the middle parts of the feathers being whitish. Above the eyes, on each side, is a white spot. It is frequent in England, and builds in the hollows of trees; lays a great number of eggs, sometimes (they say) not fewer than twenty.



COMMON GREEN
WOODPECKER 32



THE NUTHATCH 33

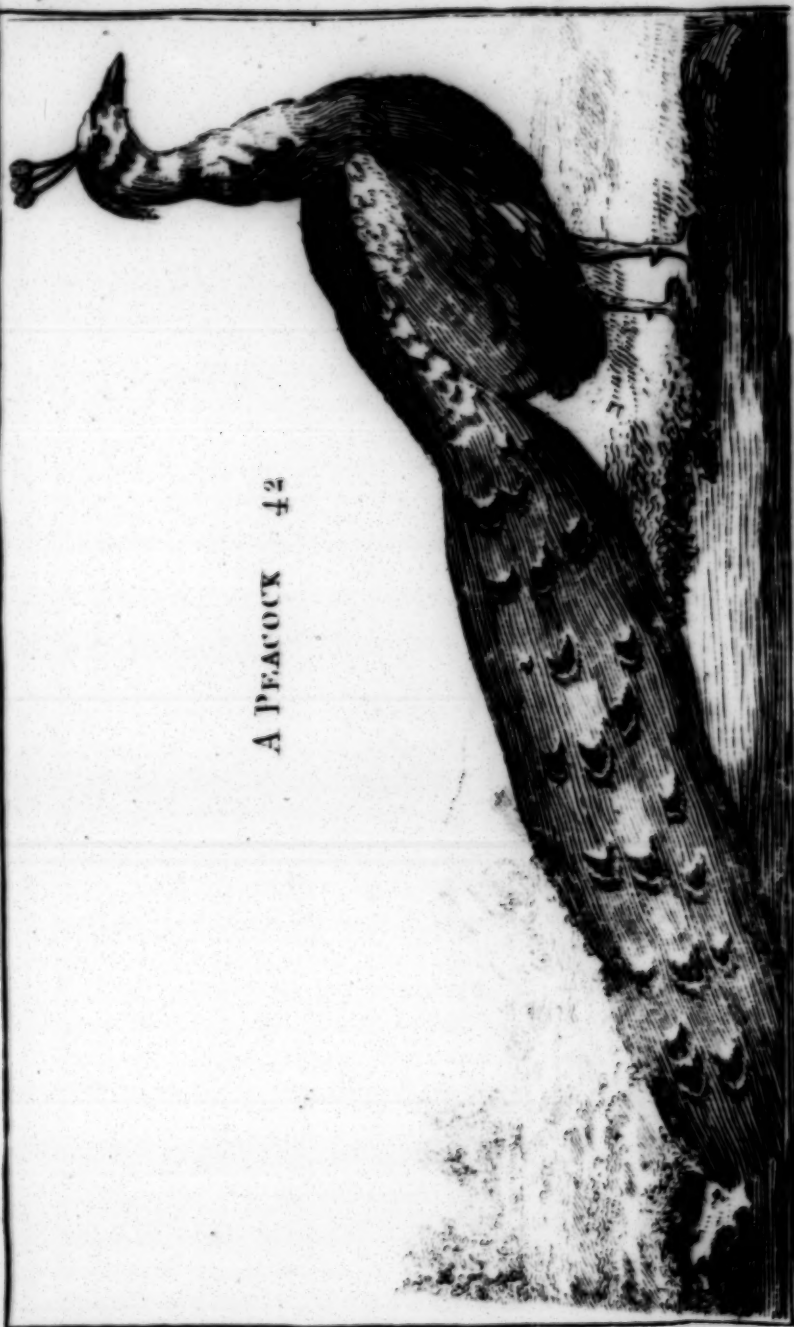


WALL CREEPER 34



OX EYE CREEPER
35

A PEACOCK 42



A DESCRIPTION OF BIRDS. 97

A PEACOCK is a bird well known, and sufficiently characterised by the length and glorious eye-like spots of his tail. His head, neck, and the beginning of his breast, are of a deep blue. He has a tuft on the top of his head, not entire, as in some other birds, but consisting of a kind of naked, but very tender green stalks, or shafts of feathers, bearing on their tops, as it were, lily flowers of the same colour. The neck is long, and very slender; the back a pale ash-colour, besprinkled with many black spots; the rump of a deep green: The long feathers of the tail are of a chesnut colour, beautified with most elegant gold lines, tending upwards, but ending in tips of a deep green, and forked like Swallows' tails: the circular spots, or eyes of the feathers, are party-coloured; of a deep green, shining like a chrysolite, a gold, and a sapphire colour. Those eyes consist of four circles of different colours; the first a golden, the second a chesnut, the third a green, and the fourth, or middle place, is taken up by a blue or sapphire-coloured spot, almost of the bigness of a kidney-bean. The hips, legs, and feet, are of an ash colour, with black spots; the belly, near the stomach, is of a bluish green. His food is the same with that of the common Cock and Hen. The flesh of this fowl resembles much in taste that of a Turkey, only rather coarser; though dressed ever so thoroughly, yet, when cold, it appears as if perfectly raw; and has been proved by experience (as we have it from good authority) that, when dressed, it will keep a great while, even some months, without putrefaction.

THE TURKEY (*represented in next plate*) is as tall as a Peacock; its neck, together with its head, is altogether bare of feathers, and only covered with a purplish-coloured skin. The feathers of this bird do somewhat resemble a Hawk's, and have their ends white. It hath very long legs; its toes and

claws have the same distinction and figure with the dunghill Cock. Turkeys love hot countries; yet they can bear cold ones after they are grown up, and have been used to them; but their young chickens are very tender, and not to be reared without care and attendance. The antipathy this fowl hath against a red colour, so as to be much moved and provoked at the sight thereof, is very strange.

THE Common COCK being so well known, it will be but lost labour to bestow any words about him. He is a very courageous and high-spirited bird, that, if of a good breed, will rather die than yield; and being a most lecherous bird, doth suddenly grow old, and seldom liveth above ten years. It hath been delivered and received by ancients and moderns, with unanimous consent and approbation, that the Lion is afraid of a cock, cannot endure the sight of him, yea, is terrified by his very crowing, and divers reasons sought and assigned for this antipathy; whereas the thing itself is, by experience, found to be false.

THE PHEASANT is a large bird, weighing forty or fifty ounces, according to its being fatter or leaner. The crown of the head, and upper part of the neck, are tinged with a dark green, shining like silk, which colour is more faint on the crown of the head. The sides of the neck, and the throat, are of a shining purple colour. The feathers under the chin, and at the corners of the mouth are black, with green borders; below the green, the rest of the neck, the breast, and shoulders, middle of the back, and sides under the wings, are clothed with a most beautiful colour, which, as it is diversely objected to the light, appears either black or purple. The legs are armed with spurs, shorter than in a Cock, but sharp, and of a black colour. The Hen is not so beautiful as the Cock, she is almost of the colour of a Quail. They live in the woods; and feed upon acorns, berries, grain, and seeds of plants: are accounted better meat than most other fowls, as well

43 A TURKEY

44
A COCK45
A PHEASANT

A PART WIDGE 46



A QUAIL 47



because they are rare, as because they are of a most delicate taste, and yield so excellent nourishment.

THE common PARTRIDGE is in weight about fourteen ounces: the chin and sides of the head are of a deep yellow or saffron colour; the Cock has on his breast a red mark, of a semi-circular figure, resembling a horse-shoe; the Hen has not so much red on her breast: below the chin, as far as the horse-shoe mark, it is of a bluish ash colour, adorned with black lines, running across; the upper side of the body is party-coloured, of red, ash, and black. It feeds upon Ants, Ants' eggs, the grains of corn, and also upon green leaves. It layeth sixteen or eighteen eggs before it sits. In winter time Partridges fly in company, for they are of that nature, that they breed, and bring up fifteen or sixteen together, which company all winter with the old ones; but in the spring-time, when they pair together, they fly by two and two; for then the old ones beat away the young from them.

THE QUAIL is the least bird in this kind, being in length about seven inches: the colour of the breast and belly are of a dirty pale yellow, the throat hath a little mixture of red; the head is black, only the edges of the feathers reddish; the middle part of each covert feather of the back, and lower part of the neck, is marked with a yellowish white stroke; the wings are of a dusky colour, crossed with pale red lines; the tail is not above an inch and a half long. Pheasants, Partridges, Quails, and some other birds, are taken by a net, by the help of a setting-dog, trained up for this sport, who finds out the birds, and when he sees them, either stands still, or lies down on his belly, not going very near them, lest he should spring them; but, looking back, on the fowler his master, wags his tail, by which the fowler knows that the birds are near the dog; and so he and his assistants run with the net, and cover both birds and dog.

THE OSTRICH is the greatest of all birds. When it holds up its head, it approacheth to the height of two yards. The head is small, flat-crowned like a Goose's. The head and neck, almost as far as the breast, are bare of feathers, as are also the thighs. The head and neck are covered with a certain down, or thin-set hairs, instead of feathers. The sides under the wings, and the thighs, are absolutely bare. The lower part of the neck, where the feathers begin, is white. The wings are small, and altogether unuseful for flying, designed by nature only to assist the bird in running. The feathers on the back in the Cock are coal-black, in the Hen only dusky; so soft, that they resemble a kind of wool. The wing-feathers are of the same colour beneath, but above in their upper part purely white. The tail is thick, bushy, and round; in the Cock whitish, in the Hen duskyish, with white tops; which feathers are in great request for soldier's hats, helmets, &c. It swallows iron, leather, bread, hair, and whatever else you offer it; howbeit it doth not digest iron, and other hard things, but voids them entire by excrement. Its eggs are as big as a young child's head, covered with a hard and stony shell; which, being buried in the sand, are cherished only by the heat of the Sun, till the young be excluded. Ostriches are bred in Africa, America, and Arabia.

THE CASSOWARY, or EMEU, is almost as big as the Ostrich. It hath a horny crown on the top of the head. The head and neck are bare of feathers, only thin-set with a hairy down. In the lower part of the neck hang down two wattles of flesh, as low as the breast, of a vermilion colour: the back part of the neck is likewise destitute of feathers, from the head all along; being also of a red vermilion colour; the lower part covered with some red feathers, wherewith black ones are intermingled: the feathers covering the whole body, with those on the lower part of the neck, next to the breast,

40
An OSTRICH



41
CASSOWARY



37
JING-FISHER



36 HOOPOE



38
BEE EATER



39
WATER OUZEL



belly, and thighs, are all double, two coming out of the same small short pipe, and lying the one upon the other, and of a blackish colour; these feathers have that form and situation, that, to those that behold the bird afar off, its skin appears to be covered, not with feathers, but only with hairs, seeming like a Bear's, and to want wings; tho' it has wings, which lie hid under the feathers covering the sides. It is a gentle-natured bird, and easily made tame; has three toes on each foot, all standing forward, and wants the back toe. This bird is found on the Molucca Islands, &c.

THE KING-FISHER is something bigger than a Sparrow. The chin is white, with a certain mixture of red; the middle also of the breast, or belly, is of the like colour. The lower belly under the tail is of a deep red, as are also the sides and feathers under the wings. The breast is red, the utmost borders of the feathers being of a dirty bluish green. From the neck, thro' the middle of the back to the tail, it is of a most lovely bright, but pale blue, which, by its splendour, is said to hurt their eyes that look long and intently upon it.

THE HOOPOE is in length, from the point of the bill to the end of the tail, about twelve inches. Its bill is two inches and a half long, black, sharp, and something bending. The head is adorned with a most beautiful crest, two inches high, consisting of a double row of feathers, reaching from the bill to the nape of the neck, all along the top of the head, which it can at pleasure set up or let fall. The neck is of a pale red; the breast white, with black strokes tending downwards. The rump is white; the wings and back are varied with white and black cross lines.

THE BEE-EATER is as big as a Black-bird. The crown of the head is red, but in some birds having something of green mixt; the neck and shoulders are green, with a certain mixture of red; the belly and breast, as far as the chin, are blue; this colour is deeper near the chin, fainter on the breast and belly. It feeds chiefly on bees; flying in the air, it catches and preys on them, as Swallows do on flies.

THE WATER-OUZEL, or Water-Crake, is nigh

as big as the common Black-bird: the head and upper side of the neck are of a dark dusky colour, or black, with an eye of red; the back, and both prime and covert feathers of the wings, are party-coloured, of ash and black; the under side of the neck, and fore part of the breast, are milk-white. It feeds upon fish, yet refuseth not insects. It is to be met with in several counties of England; is a solitary bird, companying only with its mate in coupling and breeding-time.

THE **TURTLE-DOVE** is something less than a common Pigeon. Its head, and the middle of its back, are blue, or ash-coloured; the breast and belly white; the throat tinged with a lovely vinaceous colour. Each side of the neck is adorned with a spot of beautiful feathers, of a black colour, with white tips. The wings are dusky and ash-coloured.

THE **STOCK-DOVE**, or *Wood Pigeon*, is as big, or bigger than a common Pigeon: the colour and shape of the body is almost the same with that of a common Pigeon; the bill also alike, of equal length, and of a pale red colour.

OF **TAME PIGEONS** there are divers sorts, which vary very much in colour, as do most other domestic birds; and therefore I shall content myself with little more than the bare mention of the names of some of them, they being generally well known.

THE *Runt* may be distinguished by *greater* and *lesser*; the greater is more sluggish, and of slower flight; the lesser is a better breeder, more nimble, and of a swifter flight.

THE *Cropper*, so called, because it can, and usually does, by attracting the air, blow up its Crop to that strange bigness, that it exceeds the bulk of the whole body.

THE *Broad-tail'd Shaker*, called Shaker, because it does almost constantly shake, or wag its head and neck up and down: there is the *Narrow-tail'd Shaker*, which differs only in the narrowness of its tail, as the name imports.

48
TURTLE DOVE

10'



49 STOCK
DOVE



50
RUNT



CROPPER



Broad-tail'd SHAKER



STARLING 36



RING OUSEL 37



BLACK
MARTIN 38



MARTIN 39



A STARE, or Starling, is of the bigness and shape of a common Black-bird. The tips of the feathers on the neck and back are yellow; the feathers under the tail of an ash colour; else they are black all the body over, with a certain blue or purple gloss, varying, as it is variously exposed to the light. In the hen the tips of the feathers on the breast and belly, to the very throat, are white. Starlings company with Red-wings, and Field-fares, yet do not fly away with them, but abide with us all the summer, breeding in the holes of towers, houses, trees, &c. They lay four or five eggs, lightly tinged with a greenish blue.

THE RING-OUZEL nearly resembles the common Black-bird in bigness, figure, and colour, but is hardly so dark: the top of the head, the shoulders, back, wings, and tail, are of a dark brown or dusky colour. Its bill is every way like the Black-bird's, excepting the colour, which in this is of a dark brown or blackish. It is usually conversant about rocks, and the steep cliffs of high mountains.

THE BLACK-MARTIN, or Swift, hath a great head; and huge wide mouth; but a very small bill. The colour of the feathers of the whole body is black, only under the chin is a spot of white or ash colour. Its legs are very short, but thick; its feet very small. They say, that by reason of the length of its wings, and shortness of its legs, if it happens to alight, or fall on the ground, it cannot raise itself up again, but may easily be caught. Wherefore it doth either always fly, or sit upon the tops of churches, towers, or other ancient buildings.

THE MARTIN, or Martinet, or Marlet, is somewhat less than the common Swallow. Its feet, to the very claws, are covered with a white down; by which it is easily distinguishable from all its fellows of the Swallow kind. Its head, neck, back, tail, and wings, are of the same colour with the house-Swallows. Its rump, breast, and belly, milk white. The tail is less forked than the House Swallow's. It is a

very tame and innocent bird; it builds its nest of mud, with a great deal of art, under the eaves of houses, windows, &c. feeds upon flies, and other insects.

THE Common HOUSE-SWALLOW is on the head, neck, back, and rump, of a very lovely shining purplish blue colour: the throat is of the same colour with the neck; the breast and belly are white, with a dash of red. The tail is forked, consisting of twelve feathers; the utmost of which are an inch longer than the next, and end in sharp points. The wings are of the same colour with the back. Swallows build in chimneys; and feed upon flies, worms, and other insects. What becomes of Swallows, Martins, and some other birds, in winter-time, whether they fly into other countries, or sleep in hollow trees, and the like places, natural historians are not agreed; nor indeed can they certainly determine. It seems more probable, that they fly away into hot countries, viz. Egypt, Ethiopia, &c. than that either they lurk in hollow trees, or holes of rocks, and ancient buildings, &c. as has been reported.

THE RED-START is about the bigness of a Robin Red-breast. The breast, rump, and sides under the wings, are red; the lower belly is white: the head, neck, and back, are of a lead colour. It feeds upon insects, and comes to us in summer-time. This bird is said to be of a very dogged and fullen temper; for if it be taken when old, it will be difficult to make it feed; but if taken young, and brought up, it becomes gentle and very tame. The Red-start is thought to be the shyest of all birds; for if she perceive you to mind her, when she is building, she will forsake what she has begun; and if you touch an egg, she never comes to her nest more; and if you touch her young ones, she will either starve them, or throw them out of the nest, and break their necks, as has been found by experience more than once. If this bird be kept warm in winter, it will

HOUSE SWALLOW 60



REDSTART 61





ROBIN RED BREAST

62



SKY LARK

63

sing as well in the night as the day, and will learn to whistle, and imitate other birds.

THE ROBIN RED-BREAST is a bird so well known in almost all countries, that little need be said of it. In winter-time, to seek food, it enters into houses with much confidence, being a very bold bird, sociable, and familiar with man. In the summer-time, when there is plenty of food in the woods, it withdraws itself into the most desert places. It is a solitary bird, and feeds singly; whence the proverb took its rise, *Unum arbutum non alit duos erithacos*: One thrub doth not maintain two Robin red-breasts. It feeds upon insects, ants' eggs, crumbs of bread, &c. For a song-bird, it is by some esteemed little inferior to the Nightingale. The male may be known, and distinguished from the female, by the colour of his legs, which are blacker; and by certain hairs, which grow on each side of his bill, and his breast being of a deeper red.

LARKS are distinguished from other birds, 1. By their long heel or claw of the back toe, which is the characteristic mark of these birds. 2. By the earthly colour of their feathers. 3. By their singing as they fly, mounting up in the air. The common Sky-lark is not much bigger than a House-Sparrow, yet longer bodied. It builds its nest sometimes in plain open ground, under some high grass, and tho' in the winter we see great flocks of them; yet we find the fewest of their nests of any birds that are so plentiful. They breed thrice in a year, in May, July, and August, rearing their young very suddenly; so that, if you have a nest, you must take them as soon as they are spoon-feathered, or else you run the risque of losing them; for they will get them gone of a sudden. Young nestlings may be brought up almost with any meat; but if you give them Sheep's heart and egg chopped together, till they are about three weeks old, it will not be amiss; and when they come to eat alone, give them oat-meal, hemp-

seed, and bread, mixed together, with a little egg.

THE common BLACK-BIRD is very little less than a Field-fare; the Cock whistles and sings very pleasantly all the spring and summer-time. The black-bird builds her nest very artificially, withoutside of moss, slender twigs, bent, cemented or joined together with clay, daubing it also all over withinside with clay, and covering the clay with small straws, bent, hair, or other soft matter, upon which she lays her eggs. She lays four or five eggs, of a bluish green colour, spotted.

THE RED-WING is rather less than the Thrush. The upper side of the body is of the same colour with that of the Thrush; the breast not so much spotted; the covert feathers of the under side of the wings, and of the sides of the body under the wings, which in the Thrush are yellow, in this kind are of a red orange colour; by which mark it is chiefly distinguished from it; the belly is white, the throat and breast yellowish, spotted with dusky spots. It comes to us from beyond the seas, as the Field-fare, with which it flies in company, observing the same times of coming and returning.

THE FIELD-FARE is somewhat bigger than the Black-bird. The head, neck, and rump, are ash-coloured; in some, of a deep blue; the crown of the head is sprinkled with black spots: the back shoulders, and covert feathers of the wings, are of a dark red, or chesnut colour; the middle parts of the feathers being black: the throat and upper part of the breast are yellow, spotted with black; the bottom of the breast and belly is white, and less spotted. Field-fares fly in flocks together with Stares and Red-wings; they shift places, according to the season of the year. About the beginning of autumn come over incredible flights of them into Britain, which stay all winter, and in spring fly all back again, not one bird remaining. It is said, that there were never seen any young Field-fares, or Red-wings, or so

53 BLACK BIRD



54 REDWING



55 FIELDFARE





A CARRIER

A TUMBLER



LIGHT
HORSEMAN



MISER BIRD

51



A THRUSH

52



much as a nest of those birds, in Britain. Whither they betake themselves, or where they breed, is not perfectly known.

THE *Carrier* is about the size of a common Pigeon, of a dark blue or blackish colour. It is said, Carriers have been, and are made use of, to convey letters to and fro; chiefly in the Turkish Empire. For the nature of these birds is such, that though carried far away, they will return speedily thither, to where they were bred or brought up, or where they had hatched and brought up their young.

THE *Tumbler* is a small sort of Pigeon. Tumblers are of divers colours; they have strange motions, turning themselves backward over their heads, and shew like footballs in the air.

THE *Light-horseman* is a bastard kind, of one parent a Cropper, and the other a Carrier; and so partakes of both, as appears by the wattles of its bill, and its swollen throat. Light-horsemen are the best breeders of all, and will not lightly forsake any house to which they have been accustomed. It is said that a Pigeon will breed for twenty years; and if it receives no hurt, live about thirty.

THE MISLE-BIRD, or *Shrite*, is somewhat bigger than a Black-bird: the head is of a lead colour; the back, tail, and rump, have some mixture of yellow. The under side of the body, from the bill to the tail, is speckled with pretty great blackish spots. The upper part of the breast, the sides, and feathers under the tail, are yellow; the middle of the belly white. Sitting upon the tops of high trees, as oaks, elms, &c. in the spring, it sings rarely well. It abides all the year round in England, and breeds there: It is a solitary bird, accompanying and flying only with its mate.

THE SONG-THRUSH, in the colour and spots of the breast and belly, agrees with the Mistle-bird; for the spots are dusky, the breast is yellowish, the belly white: the upper surface of the body is all over dusky, with a mixture of yellow in the wings; the Cock

cannot be known from the Hen by his colour. It abides all the year, and breeds in England. It builds its nest outwardly of earth, moss, and straw, and within daubs it with clay; laying its eggs and young upon the bare clay. It lays, at one sitting, five or six eggs, of a bluish green colour, speckled with a few small black spots. In the spring-time it sits upon trees, and sings most sweetly; but it builds in hedges.

THE WOOD-LARK is distinguished from the common Lark by the following marks. 1. Whistling like a Black-bird. 2. A circle of white feathers encompassing the head, from eye to eye, like a crown or wreath. 3. The first or utmost feather of the wing being much shorter than the second, whereas in the common Lark it is near equal. 4. The outmost feathers of the tail have white tips. 5. That it sits upon trees. 6. It is less than the common lark, and hath a shorter, thicker, or rounder body, for its bigness. It builds most commonly in lays, where the grass hath been pretty rank, and is grown russet, under some large turf, to shelter its nest from the wind and weather.

THE CRESTED-LARK differs from the common Lark. 1. In bigness. 2. In the crest. 3. In the colour of the back, which is less spotted, and not so beautiful. 4. In the measure of the tail, which in this bird is shorter. 5. In that it soars not so much in the air; and, when it mounts up, stays not so long there. 6. It flies not in flocks, as they do. Lastly, It is often seen about the banks of lakes and rivers.

THE NIGHTINGALE, being the chief of all singing birds, is about the bigness of a Goldfinch or Red-start, and long-bodied. Its colour on the upper part, viz. head and back, are of a deep gold colour, with a certain mixture of green, like that of a Red-wing. Its tail is of a deeper red; its belly is white; the parts under the wings, the breast, and throat, are of a darker colour, with a tincture of green. It is well known from its singing by night; is impatient of cold, and therefore in winter time either



WOOD LARK 64

CRESTED LARK
65NIGHTINGALE
66

A PARAKEET .

73

FOOLISH
SPARROW 74HOUSE
SPARROW
75BULLFINCH
76

hides itself, or flies away into hot countries. It breeds about the month of May, building its nest of the leaves of trees, straw, and moss; and lays four or five eggs. It seldom sings near its nest, for fear of discovering it, but generally about a stone's cast distance.

THE RING PAROQUET is about fourteen inches long; its bill is thick, and all over red: the head, and all the body besides, green; but the neck, breast, and whole under side, more faint, or pale; the upper side deeper coloured. It hath a red circle, or ring, which encompasseth the backside of the neck: this ring is behind of the breadth of one's little finger, but grows narrower by degrees towards the sides, and ends under the lower chap of the bill. The belly is of so faint a green, that it seems almost to be yellow; the tail is also of a yellowish green; the legs and feet are ash-coloured. This is said to be the first of all Parrots brought out of India into Europe; and the only one known to the ancients for a long time, to wit, from the time of Alexander the Great, to the age of Nero.

THE FOOLISH SPARROW is in bigness equal to the Common Sparrow. The colour of its whole body is yellowish, spotted every where with oblong, rusty, or rather red spots, which on the back are longer and bigger than elsewhere. The bill is red, thick, and short; the eyes great; the tail and wings incline to black.

THE Common HOUSE-SPARROW is every where so well known, that I shall only present you with the figure.

THE BULFINCH is a very docile bird, and will nearly imitate the sound of a pipe, or the whistle of a man, with its voice. This bird is much esteemed in England for its singing, and deservedly, for therein it is thought to excel all small birds, if perchance you except the Linnnet. The head, for the proportion of the body, is great. In the male, a lovely scarlet, or crimson colour adorns the breast,

throat, and jaws, as far as the eyes; the crown of the head is black; the rump and tail white; the neck and back grey, with a certain tincture of red; the tail is black. The Cock is of equal bigness to the Hen, but hath a flatter crown, and excels her in the beauty of his colours.

THE GOLDFINCH, or *Thistle-Finch*, is a very beautiful bird; for the elegance of its colours, and sweetness of its singing, every where well known and highly esteemed. It is of a mild and gentle nature, nor so scared and affrighted at the presence of a man, as to strike its bill and wings against the side of the cage, as most other birds do. It builds its nest in thorns and trees; and lays six or seven eggs.

THE Common LINNET is about the size of the Goldfinch. It is kept in cages with us for the sweetness of its singing; for it hath a sweet note, and is thought to excel all other small birds. It builds in black or white thorn bushes, and lays four or five eggs.

THE *Red-headed* LINNET is something less than the Common Linnet: the crown of the head is adorned with a red colour, but not very bright; the rest of the head and neck round about of an ash colour. The shoulders, back, and covert feathers of the wings are red; the breast is tinged with red: it hath a fine note, equal to the common Linnet; and builds after the same manner. It is common on the sea-coasts.

THE YELLOW-HAMMER is of the bigness of a Sparrow. Its head is of a greenish yellow, spotted with brown; the throat and belly are yellow; the breast and sides, under the wings, mingled with red: the rump is reddish. Yellow Hammers build upon the ground; being every where in England most common.

THE WATER-WAGTAIL is a bird so well known, that it may seem enough to name it. It is much conversant about the brinks of Rivers, Ponds, and other watery places, where it catches flies, and water insects. It builds upon the ground among corn, making its nest of bent, and the stalks of herbs, spreading hairs within under the eggs. It lays at one time four or five eggs.

THE CANARY-BIRD is of the bigness of the

GOLD FINCH 77

123



A LINNET

78



RED HEADED
LINNET 79



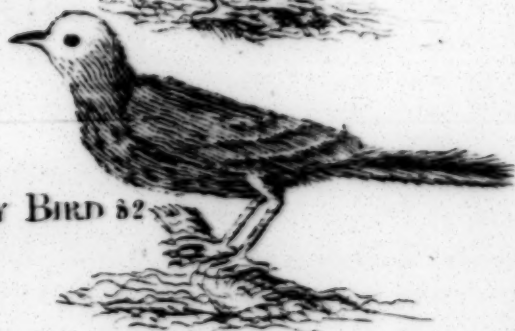
YELLOW
HAMMER
80



WATER
WAGTAIL 81



CANARY BIRD 82





SA WREN
70



MARSH TITMOUSE

BLUE TITMOUSE



CRESTED TITMOUSE

LONG TAIL'D
TITMOUSE



INDIAN
STARROW

common Titmouse. It hath a very sweet and shrill note, which at one breath, continueth for a long time without intermission; it can draw out sometimes in length, sometimes raise very high, by a various and almost musical inflection of its voice, making very pleasant and artificial melody. The sound it makes is very sharp, and so quavering, that sometimes when it stretches and exercises its little throat and chaps, whistling with all its force, it vehemently strikes, and even deafens the ears of the hearers with its shrillness. Many are delighted with this kind of its singing; many also are offended, saying, that they are stunned and deafened with it.

THE CRANE is a large bodied fowl, weighing sometimes ten pounds. Its neck and legs are very long. The top of the head is black; from the bill to the hinder part covered with black hairs, or bristles, rather than feathers: the throat and sides of the neck are of a black hue: the back, shoulders, covert-feathers of the wings, breast, and all the belly and thighs, are ash-coloured. In the fen countries in Lincolnshire, and Cambridgehire, there are great flocks of Cranes; but whether or no they breed in England is not certainly known. Though the Crane be a water-fowl, yet it is thought not to feed at all upon fish, but only upon herbs, grain, and seeds of divers sorts; and also upon insects. The flesh of these fowls is very savoury, and well tasted, not to say delicate.

THE BALEARIC CRANE is in the shape of its body like a Stork. It hath upon its head a thick round crest, made up with bristles spread every way, like to Hogs' bristles, of the colour of the prickles of a common Hedge-hog; by which note it may at first sight be known from all other birds. It is found in the country near Cape Verde. For bigness it is equal to our country Crane. This bird roosts after the manner of a Peacock, whose voice and conditions it also imitates. It feeds upon green herbs, and

together with Hens and Peacocks, devours barley, and other grain.

THE WREN is a very small bird. It builds its nest sometimes by the walls of houses, in the back-sides of stables, but more commonly in woods and hedges. This nest is of the figure of an egg, erect upon one end, and hath in the middle of the side a door, by which it goes in and out. It lays nine or ten eggs, and sometimes more, at a sitting. It is strange to admiration, that so small a bird should cover so great a number of eggs; and more strange, that it should feed such a company of young, and not miss one bird, and that in the dark also. Being kept tame it sings sweetly.

TITMICE are a sort of small birds that are found for the most part about trees; and live chiefly upon insects which they find there. There are several sorts of these birds, viz. the *Marsh Titmouse*, or *Black cap*; the *Blue Titmouse*, or *Nun*; the *Crested Titmouse*; the *Long-tail'd Titmouse*, and some others. Some of these build in holes of trees; others make nests of an oval figure, with a hole left open in the side to go in and out at. They never sit long in one place, but flit from bough to bough, and from tree to tree: they have short bills, small bodies, and long tails.

THE *Long-tail'd* INDIAN SPARROW is of equal bigness to our House-Sparrow. It hath a short thick bill, of a scarlet colour. Its wings are of three colours chiefly; 1st, blackish and greenish; 2d, a white, as appears in the figure; 3d, a black; and 4th, a yellowish colour. The throat, breast, and belly are white; the tail is double, as in the Peacock, and of two colours; the lesser, which sustains the greater, being as it were its prop, is white; the greater, consisting of four very narrow feathers, of nine inches long, is of a deep black. The legs and feet are spotted of black and white; the talons are black, and as in birds of prey, very sharp and hooked.

. A CRANE 83



BALEARIC

CRANE 84





VIRGINIAN NIGHTINGALE

67



BLACK CAP

68



HUMMING BIRD

69

THE VIRGINIA-NIGHTINGALE is nigh as big as a Black-bird. It has on its head, a tuft of a scarlet colour; with which colour also the neck, breast, and belly are adorned: the ends of the wings are not of so deep a scarlet, as neither is the tail; the colour of the whole is a lovely scarlet, only the head and tail more faint. Seeing its image in a glass, it has many strange gesticulations, making a hissing noise, lowering its crest, setting up its tail after the manner of the Peacock, shaking its wings and striking at the looking-glass with its bill.

THE BLACK-CAP is a very small bird, not weighing above half an ounce: the top of the head is black, whence it took its name; the neck, of an ash colour; the whole back of a dark green; the wings of a dusky colour, only their edges are a little green: the tail is also of a dusky colour, with a little tincture of green; the nether part of the neck, the throat, and upper part of the breast, are of a pale ash-colour; the lower belly white, tintured with yellow. This bird is common in Italy; it is also found in England, but more rarely.

THE HUMMING-BIRD is the least of all birds: the head, together with the feathers, is of the bigness of a mean-sized sweet cherry; the neck is three quarters of an inch long; the body an inch and a quarter. The body, together with the feathers, is scarce equal in bigness to a Spanish Olive. Its colour is wonderfully resplendent: A green, (such as is seen in the necks of Peacocks,) with a golden flame-colour, and yellow, are so strangely mixed, that being exposed to the sun-beams, it shines admirably. It makes its nest in the boughs of trees, of the bigness of a Holland schilling, and lays very white eggs; two, for the most part, of an oval figure, not bigger than pease. It is fed and nourished with honey-dew, and the juice of flowers, which it sucks out of them with its bill. It flies very swift, and makes a hum-

ming noise, like a Hornet, or Bee; hence it took its name in English, of Humming bird.

THE Common HERON is, from the tip of the bill to the end of the claws, four feet long; to the end of the tail, about thirty eight inches. It hath a black crest on the head four inches high: the feathers on the crown of the head and the chin are white: the neck white and ash-coloured, tinged with red: the throat white, being delicately painted with black spots: the breast, back, and wings, are various, inclining to yellow, ash, and black. It feeds upon fishes, frogs, &c. Herons build sometimes on the tops of great trees, like Rooks, and, for the most part many together.

THE Lesser ash-coloured HERON, called by the Germans, the *Night Raven*, is less than the common Heron, and hath a shorter neck. Its beak and crown are black; its neck ash-coloured; its throat and belly tinged with yellow. A white line is extended from the eyes to the bill. From the hinder part of the head it hath a crest of three feathers, five inches long, hanging down over the back, whereby it differs from all other birds. Its wings and tail are of an ash-colour; its bill black; its legs and feet of a yellowish green. This bird is called *Night Raven*, because in the Night time it cries with an uncouth voice, like one that strains to vomit.

THE BITTERN is near as big as the common Heron; its head is small, narrow, or compressed at the sides: the crown is black; the throat and sides of the neck are red, with narrow black lines; the back is party-coloured, of a pale red and black. The back claw of this bird, which is remarkably thick and long above the rest, is wont to be set in silver for a picktooth; and is thought to have the singular property of preserving teeth. This bird, when it bellows, makes a dreadful noise; and it is said, that it gives always an odd number of bombs at a time, viz. three or five, which, by observation, has been found to be false. It begins to bellow about the beginning of February, and ceases when breeding time is over. The common people are of opinion that it thrusts its bill into a reed, by the help whereof it makes that lowing or



A HERON 85



LESSER
HERON 86



A BITTERN
87

RED SHARK

94

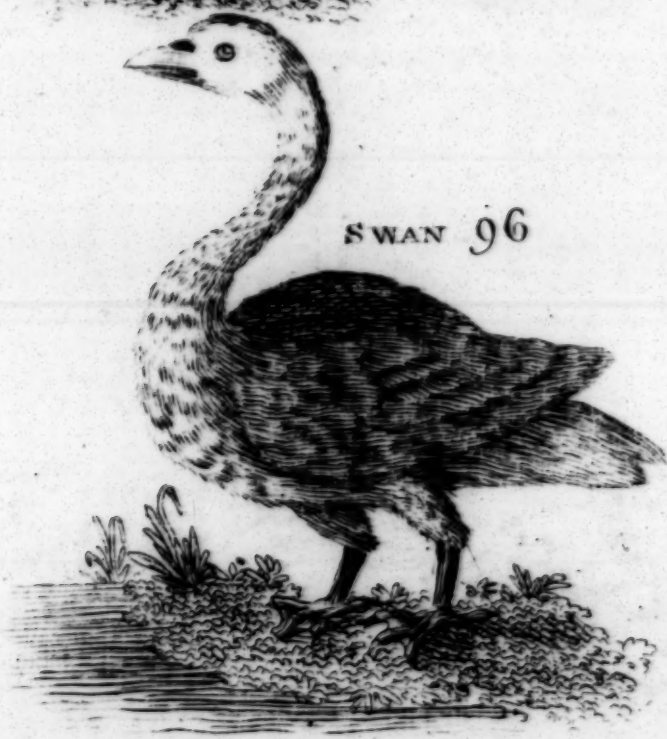


LAPWING

95



SWAN 96



drumming noise; others say, that it thrusts its bill into the water, mud, or earth, and by that means imitates the lowing of an Ox. It hides itself commonly among reeds and rushes, and sometimes lies in hedges with its neck and head erect. In the autumn, after sun-set, this bird is wont to soar aloft in the air, so high, that it gets quite out of sight; in the mean time making a singular kind of noise, nothing like to lowing. This, without doubt, is that bird our common people call the *Night Raven*, and have such a dread of, imagining its cry portends no less than their death, or the death of some of their near relations; for it flies in the night, answers their description, and hath such a kind of hooping cry as they talk of.

THE RED-SHANK is of a middle size for bigness, between a Lap-wing and a Snipe, approaching to the quantity of a Plover. The head and back are of a dusky ash-colour, spotted with black; the throat is party-coloured of black and white, the black being drawn down longways the feathers; the breast is whiter, with fewer spots. It is common on sandy shores; breeds in marshes; and if any one come near its nest, it flies about, making a great noise like the Lap-wing.

THE LAP-WING is a bird in all countries well known, and every where to be met with. In the North of England they call it *Tewit* from its cry. It is of the bigness of a common Pigeon. It lays four or five eggs, of a dirty yellow, all over painted with great black spots and strokes. It builds its nest on the ground, in the middle of some field or heath, open, and exposed to view, laying only some few straws or bents under the eggs, that the nest be not seen: the eggs, being so like in colour to the ground on which they ly, it is not easy to find them, though they ly so open. The young, so soon as they are hatcht, instantly forsake the nest, running away with the shells on their back, for they are covered with a thick down, and follow the old ones like chickens: they say, a Lap-wing, the further you are from her nest, the more clamorous she is, the nearer you are to it, the quieter she is, and the less concerned she seems, that she may draw you from the true place, and induce you to think it is where it is not.

THE tame SWAN is much the biggest of all whole-

footed water fowl with broad bills, some of them weighing about twenty pounds. The whole body is covered with a soft delicate plumage, in the old ones purely white, in the young ones grey. It is a very long-lived fowl, so that it is thought to attain the age of three hundred years, which by some has been doubted of. My author says, for his part, he could easily be induced to believe it, for that he had been assured, by credible persons, that a goose will live a hundred years or more. But that a Swan is much longer lived than a Goose, he brings many convincing arguments to prove. The Swan feeds not upon fish, but either upon herbs growing in water, and their roots and seeds, or upon worms, and other insects, and shell-fish. Its flesh is black, hard, and tough, being no desirable dainty, yet, for its rarity, serves as a dish to adorn great men's tables at feasts and entertainments. It lays seven or eight eggs, and sits near two months before its young ones are hatched.

THE *Tame* GOOSE I shall say but little of, it being well known in all nations. It is less than a Swan, but bigger than a Duck. The colour in these, as in other tame birds, is various; in some brown, in some green, &c. When it is angry, it hisses like a serpent. It is very long-lived, as has been mentioned in the description of the Swan.

THE *Tame* DUCK is as well known as the Goose; and there being nothing material in the description of it, I shall only present you with the figure.

THE WIGEON, or *Whewer*, weighs about twenty two ounces; the head, and upper end of the neck, are red; the crown towards the bill is of a faint colour, from red inclining to yellowish white; the upper part of the breast and sides, as far as the wings, is beautified with a very fair tincture, of a red-wine colour, with small, transverse black lines; the middle of the back is brown. It feeds upon grass and weeds, growing in the bottoms of rivers, lakes, &c. The flesh of it, for delicacy, is much inferior to that of a Teal, or indeed the Wild Duck.

THE KNOT is a small bird, weighing about four ounces and a half. Its head and back are of a dusky ash-colour, or dark grey; the rump varied with white and black lines; the breast and belly white; the sides un-

A GOOSE 97



A DUCK 98



WIDGEON 99

KNOT
100

RUFF
101



TAMATIA
102



COOT
103



der the wings spotted with brown. About the beginning of winter these birds are said to come into Lincolnshire, where they continue two or three months about the sea shores, and away again. They fly in flocks. If fat, they are accounted excellent meat.

THE RUFF, whose female is called a Reeve, is bigger than a Knot. In the Cock birds, a circle, or collar of long feathers, something resembling a Ruff, encompasses the neck under the head, whence they took the name of Ruffs. There is wonderful, and almost infinite variety in the colours of the feathers of the Cock, so that, in the spring-time, there can scarce be found any two exactly alike one to another. After midsummer, when they have moulted their feathers, they say they become all alike again; the Hens are somewhat less than the Cocks; they change not their colours: these birds breed in summer-time, in the Fens of Lincolnshire, about Crowland: they are fatted with white bread and milk, as are also Knots, being shut up in close dark rooms; for let in but the light upon them, presently they fall a fighting, never giving over till one has killed the other, especially if any body stand by: the fowlers, when they see them intent upon fighting, spread their nets over them, and catch them before they are aware.

THE Brazilian TAMATIA is of the bigness of a Lark, or small Wood-pecker, all spotted like a Thrush, or Mavis; on the belly it has white feathers, with dusky spots. It is yellow under the throat, as also about the neck. It hath a long red bill. Above the nostrils stand up certain slender feathers, like hairs or bristles. Its head and bill are bigger than the proportion of the body requires.

THE COOT is a pretty large bird, weighing about twenty four ounces: the feathers about the head and neck are low, soft, and thick: the colour all over the body is black, deeper about the head. It builds its nest of grass, broken reeds, &c. floating on the top of the water, so that it rises and falls together with the water; the reeds, among which it is built, stop it, that it be not carried down streams. This bird, in the figure and make of its body, resembles a Water-Hen. It seldom sits

upon trees; the flesh of it is accounted no good meat, except in Italy, where it is esteemed.

THE SNIPE or SNITE, weighs about four ounces. A pale red line divides the head in the middle longways: the chin under the bill is white, the neck is mingled of brown and red; the breast and belly are almost wholly white; the back and wings are of a dusky colour. Its flesh is tender, sweet, and of an excellent relish. It lives especially on the fatty humour it sucks out of the earth, but feeds also upon worms, and other insects. It seeks its food in moist and fenny places, rivulets, &c. where also it hides itself, so that it is very hard to find or espy it. Some Snipes abide in this country all the summer, and build in moors and marshes, laying four or five eggs at a breeding time; the greatest part fly away into other countries.

THE GODWIT, called in some places the *Yarwhelp* or *Yarwhip*, in others the *Stone-plover*, is like and equal to a Wood-cock, or a little bigger. It lives and seeks its food on the sandy shores by the sea-side, which for a great space are uncovered when the tide is out, where it hides not itself, like the Wood-cock, but walks up and down the sands in open view, like a Gull.

THE CURLEW is a pretty large sea fowl, weighing about twenty-five ounces; it is found on the sea coasts on all sides of England. The middle parts of the feathers of the head, neck, and back, are black, the borders or outsides ash-coloured, with a mixture of red; the rump and belly are white. This bird for the goodness and delicate taste of its flesh, may justly challenge the principal place among water-fowl; of this Fowlers are not ignorant, and therefore sell them dear. They have a proverb among them in Suffolk,

*A Curlew be she white, be she black,
She carries twelve pence on her back.*

A SNIE 91



A GODWIT 92



A CURLEW 93





A SHORE 88



A SWAN 89



A WOODCOCK 90

THE Common or White STORK is bigger than the common Heron; its neck is thicker and shorter; its head, neck, and forepart white; the rump and outside of the wings black; the belly white; the quill feathers of the wings are black; the tail white; the bill long, and red like a Heron's; its claws are broad, like the nails of a man; it is seldom seen either in Scotland or England, and not unless driven over by a storm of wind, or some other accident. It makes a snapping or clattering noise with its bill, by the quick and frequent striking one chap against the other. It readily eats frogs, land-snails, &c. but refuseth toads.

THE SPOON-BILL is a very large fowl; the colour of the whole body is white like a Swan's; the bill very much resembles a spoon, whence also the bird itself is called. In a certain grove, at a village called Savenhuys, not far from Leyden in Holland, this sort of birds build and breed yearly in great numbers on the tops of high trees; where also build Herons, Night-Ravens, Shags, Cormorants, &c.

THE WOOD-COCK is somewhat less than a Partridge. The upper side of the body is party-coloured, of red, black, and grey, very beautiful to behold; from the bill almost to the middle of the head, it is of a reddish ash-colour: the breast and belly are grey, with transverse brown lines; under the tail, it is somewhat yellowish; the chin is white with a tincture of yellow. Wood-cocks are birds of passage, coming over into Britain in Autumn, and departing again in the beginning of Spring; yet they pair before they go, flying two together, a male and a female. They frequent especially moist woods and rivulets near hedges. They are said both to come and fly away in a mist. Wood-cocks' flesh, for the delicacy of its taste, is in high esteem.

THE *Green PLOVER* is about the bigness of a Lap-wing, the colour of the whole upper side is black, thick set with yellowish green spots; the breast brown, spotted with yellowish green; the belly white. Its flesh is sweet and tender, and therefore highly esteemed, and accounted a choice dish, as well in Britain, as beyond seas. This bird, from its spots, something resembling those of a Leopard, is called *Pardalis*.

THE *Grey PLOVER* is about the size of the former. Its head, back, and lesser covert feathers of the wings, are black, with tips of a greenish grey; the chin is white; the throat spotted with brown or dusky spots; the breast, belly, and thighs, are white; the flesh also is very tender, savoury, and delicate; and in no less esteem than that of the former.

THE *DOTTREL* is something less than the Plover. It is a very foolish bird, but excellent meat; and with some accounted a great delicacy. It is taken in the night-time, by the light of a candle, by imitating the gestures of the fowler; for if he stretches out an arm, it also stretches out a wing; if he a foot, it likewise a foot: in brief, whatever the fowler doth, the same doth the bird; and so being intent upon men's gestures, it is deceived, and covered with a net. It is accounted a foolish bird, even to a Proverb, we calling a foolish, dull person, a *Dottrel*.

THE *Common MOOR-HEN*, or *Water-Hen*, is bigger than the Plover: the breast is of a lead colour; the belly inclining to grey, or ash-colour; the back all over blackish. As it swims, or walks, it often flirts up its tail. It will feed very fat. Its flesh is well tasted, and even comparable to that of Teal. It lives about moats, and great pools of water near gentlemen's houses. It flies with its feet hanging down. It builds upon low trees and shrubs by the water-side, breeding twice or thrice in a summer. Its eggs are white, with a tincture of green, spotted with reddish spots. It strikes with its bill like a hen. It feeds upon water insects, that it finds among the

GREEN PLOVER 104

GRAY
PLOVER 105DOOTREL
106A MOOR HEN
107

THE TEAL 108



PELICAN 109



CORMORANT 110



weeds, and on grassy banks and borders near waters.

THE TEAL is the least of the Duck kind, weighing only about twelve ounces; the breast and belly are of a sordid white, or grey colour; the back, and the sides under the wings, are curiously varied with lines of white and black; the wings are all over brown; the tail is likewise of a brown or dusky colour. This bird, for the delicate taste of its flesh, and the wholesome nourishment it affords the body, doth deservedly challenge the first place among those of its kind.

THE PELICAN is a very large sea-fowl, being sixty inches in length, from the point of the bill to the end of the tail, and almost equal in bigness to a Swan: the colour of the whole body is white. It has a bag hanging down under the bill, which makes the Pelican greatly different from other birds, which it sometimes contracts, and draws up so to the bill, that it is scarce to be seen; at other times it suffers it to be so dilated, as to receive and contain many pounds of water, some say thirty. It feeds upon fish, and lives to a great age, sixty years or upwards. Its voice is said to be like the braying of an ass.

THE CORMORANT is nearly as big as a Goose. The colour, on the upper side, is dusky, shining with an obscure tincture of green; the breast and belly are white. It is very ravenous and greedy of fish, which is its only food. It builds its nest on the sea-rocks, and also upon high trees, in some places of England; which thing is worthy taking notice of; for besides this, and the Shag, we have not known, or heard of any whole-footed bird, that is wont to sit upon trees, much less build its nest upon them.

THE SHAG is somewhat like the Cormorant, but a great deal less. It differs in the colour of the belly, which in this is blackish, in that white. It swims in the sea with its head erect, its body almost covered in the water. When a gun is discharged at it, as soon as it sees the fire flash, immediately it pops under water, like a Ducker, so that it is very difficult to shoot it.

THE Cornish CHOUGH is like a Jackdaw, but bigger, and almost equal to a Crow. It differs chiefly from the Jackdaw in the bill, which is longer and sharper, a little bowed or crooked: the feet and legs are like those of a Jackdaw, but red of colour: the plumage of the whole body is black. It frequents rocks, old castles, and churches, by the sea-side. It is found, not only in Cornwall, but also in Wales, and all along the western coast of England, about the cliffs and rocks near the sea. Its voice is like that of the common Jackdaw, but more hoarse.

THE SCARECROW is of the bigness of a Blackbird. Its head, neck, and belly, are black; its wings are ash-coloured; its tail is a little forked; its legs and feet small; the male has a white spot under the chin: they fly in flocks, for the most part, twenty or thirty together: they catch Gnats, and other water insects: their flesh is good to eat.

THE COCK of the mountain or wood, for bigness and figure comes near to a Turkey: there is no need of a particular description of the colour of the feathers of this bird, which varies by age, and perchance also place, and other accidents. It is chiefly black, with transverse lines of white. This bird is found on high mountains beyond seas, and, as they say, in Ireland, but no where in England. The flesh of this bird is of a delicate taste, and wholesome nourishment.



THE SHAG

110



CORNISH

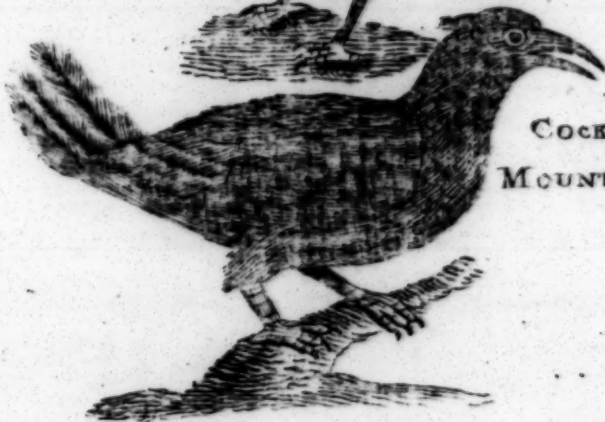
CROULE

111



SCAUP CROW

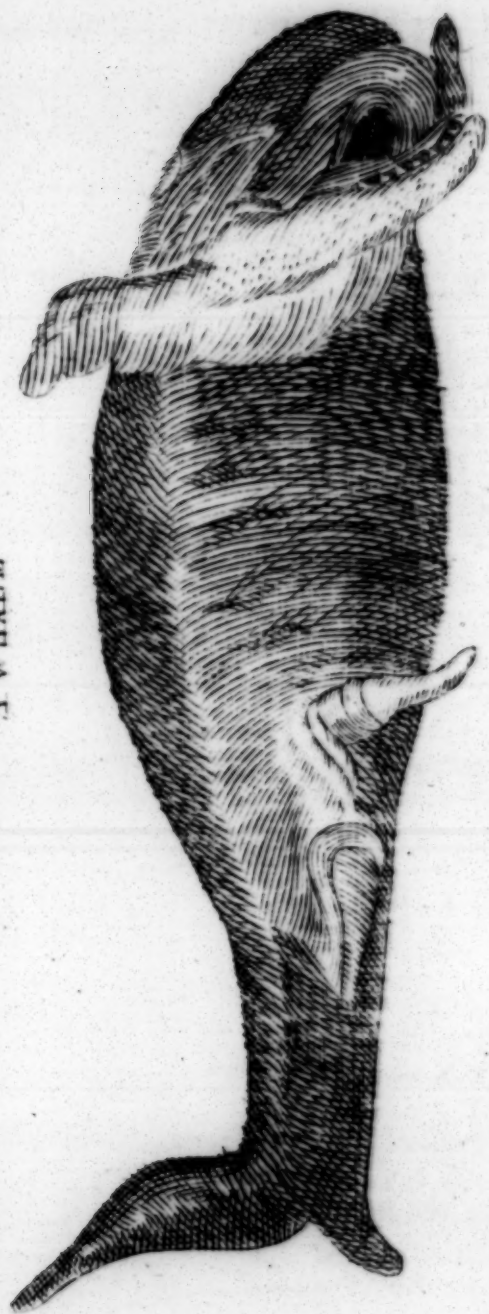
112



COCK OF

MOUNTAIN 113

A WHALE



A

D E S C R I P T I O N

O F

F I S H E S.

B O O K III.

THE WHALE is about fifty or sixty feet in length, sometimes seventy, and about twelve high; the length of his chap about eighteen feet: the tongue is said to be as big as a large feather bed. It has only two large fins, which are fastened to the shoullder blades; the tail is forked like a Swallow's: its colour, on the back, is blackish, the belly white: the back is commonly full of scars and scratches, which it is supposed to receive from its swimming under the ice.

A

PARTICULAR ACCOUNT

OF THE

Manner of Catching Whales

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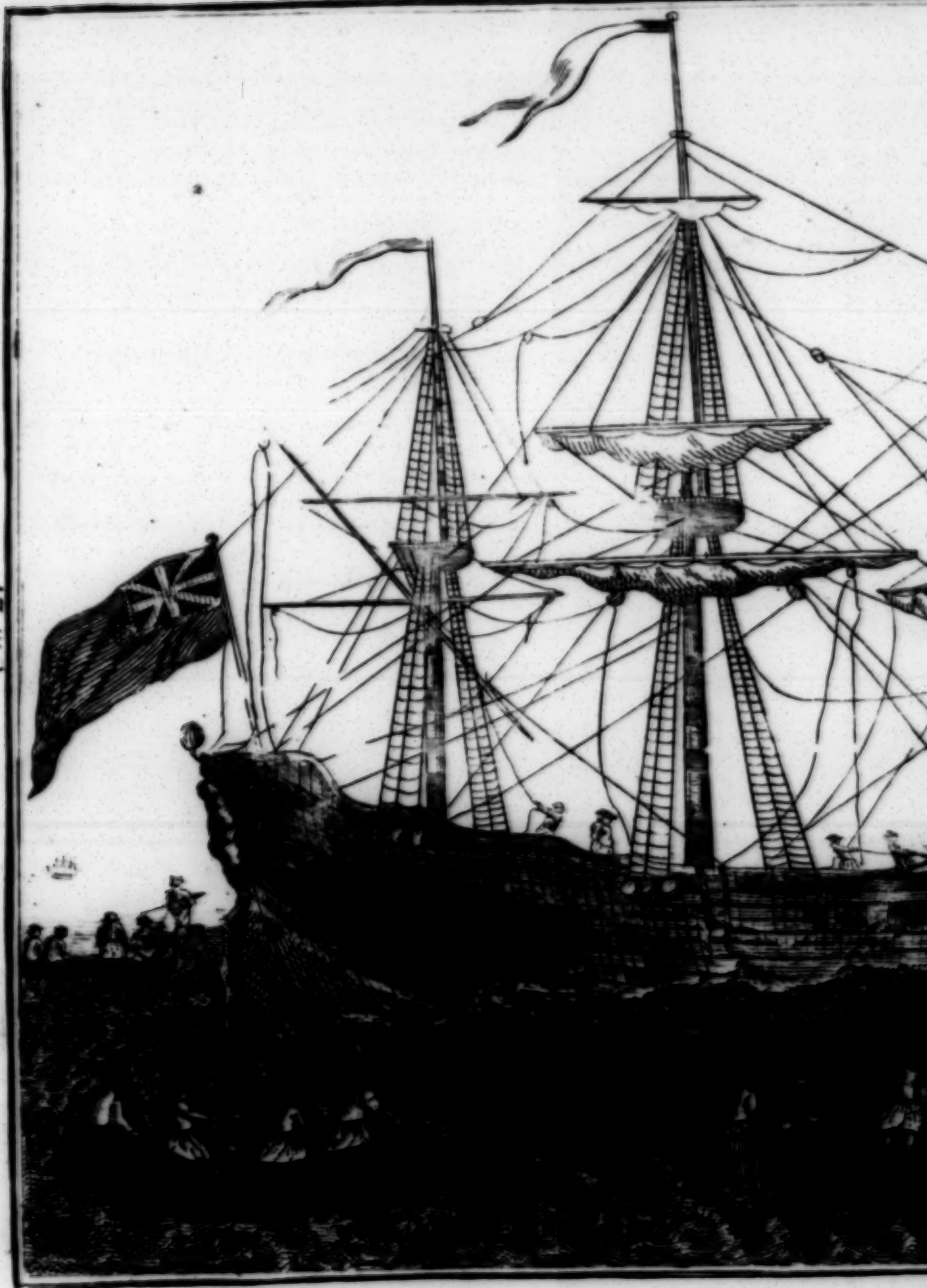
GREENLAND.

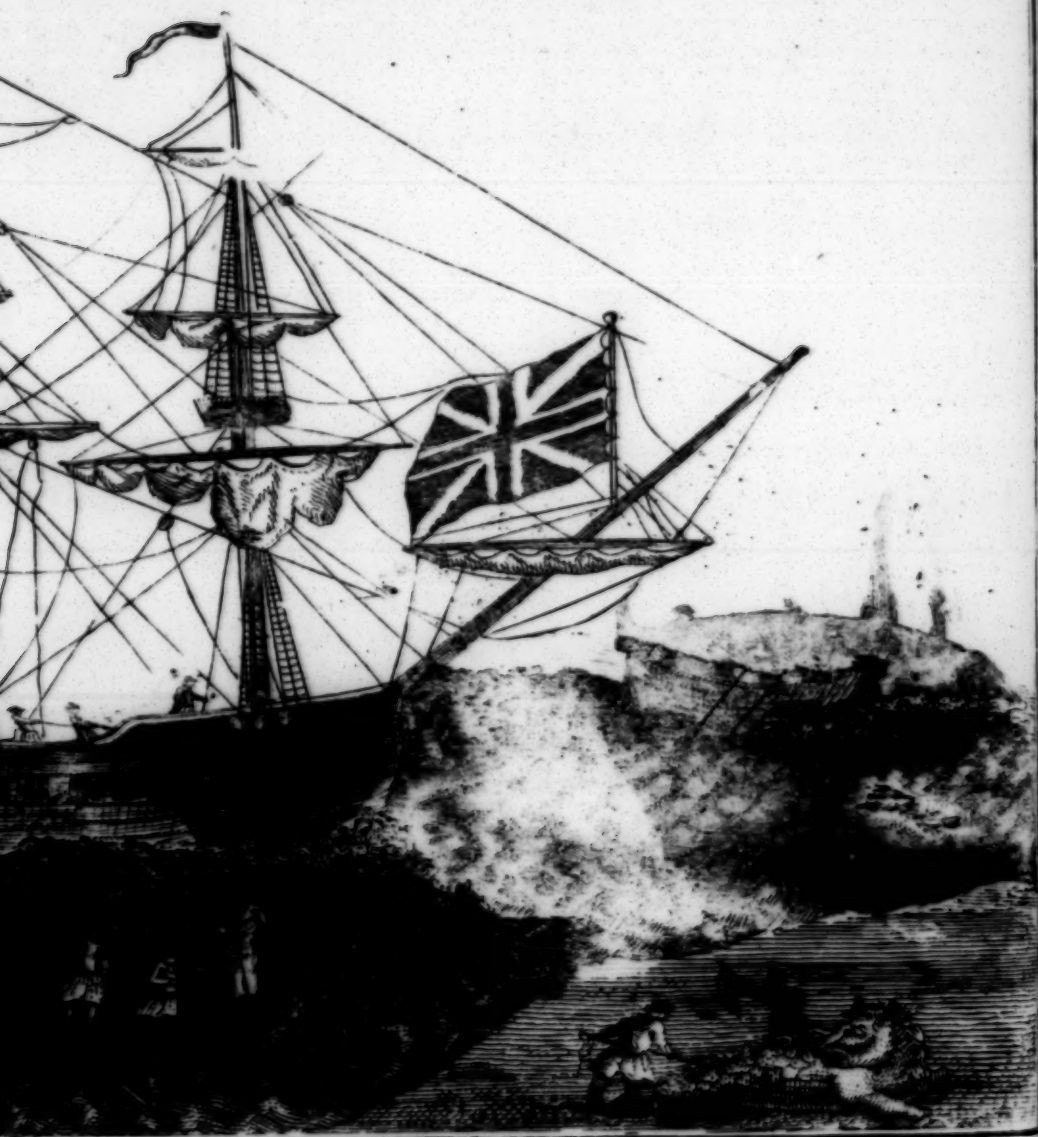
WHALES are taken in large numbers about Iceland, Greenland, and other northern countries, by the English, Hollanders, &c. Our South Sea Company, for several years, sent annually, on this expedition, above twenty sail of ships, every ship being above three hundred tons burden, and each carrying forty-five men: this fleet usually sailed about the end of March, but seldom began to fish till the month of May. When they begin their fishery, the ship is fastened, or moor'd, with nose-hooks to the ice. Two boats, each manned with six men (which is the compliment of every boat in the fleet) are ordered by the Commodore, (who is an officer, and also the head of every ship's company, and appointed on purpose to manage the fishery) to look out for the coming of the fish, for two hours, and then are relieved by two more, and so by turns: these two boats ly at a small distance

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THE GREENLAND

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MANNER OF CATCHING WHALES. 152

from the ship, each separated from the other, fastened to the ice, with their boat-hooks, ready to let go in an instant, at the first sight of the Whale. Here the dexterity of the Whale-hunter is to be admired; for so soon as the fish shews herself, every man to his oar, and they rush on the monster with a prodigious swiftnefs; at the same time taking care to come abaft, or behind his head, that he may not see the boat, which sometimes so scars him, that he plunges down again before they have time to strike him. But the greatest care is to be taken of the tail, with which he many times does very great damage, both to the boats and mariners: the harpooneer, who is placed in the head or bow of the boat, seeing the back of the Whale, and making the onset, thrusts the harping iron with all his might into his body, by the help of a staff fixed in it for that purpose, and leaves it in, a line being fastened to it, of about two inches in circumference, and a hundred and thirty six fathoms long. Every boat is furnished with seven of these lines, which being let run, from the motion of it, they observe the course of the fish. As soon as ever the harpooneer has struck the Whale, the third man in the boat holds up his oar, with something on the top, as a signal to the ship; at the sight of which, the man who is appointed to watch gives the alarm to those that are asleep, who instantly let fall their other four boats, which hang on the tackles, two on each side, ready to let go at a minute's warning, all furnished alike with six men each, harping irons, lances, lines, &c. two or three of these boats row to the place where the fish may be expected to come up again, the other, to assist the boat that first struck the Whale with line; for the fish will, sometimes, run out two or three boats lines, all fastened to each other; for, when the lines of the first boat are almost run out, they throw the end to the second, to be fastened to theirs, and then follow the other boats,

in pursuit of the Whale, and so likewise does the second boat, when their lines are run out. A Whale sometimes, when she is first struck, will run out above a hundred fathoms of line, before the harpooner is able to take a turn round the boat's stem, and with that swiftness, that a man stands ready to quench it, if it should fire, which it frequently does; and, I am told, there was a boat lately to be seen in the South sea dock at Deptford, the head of which was sawed off by the swiftness of the line's running out. Sometimes the Whale is killed on the spot, without sinking down at all. The harping iron would but little avail, to the destruction of this animal; but part of the rowers, either at the first onset, or when, in order to fetch its breath, it discovers itself to view, throwing aside their oars, and taking up their very sharp lances, they thrust it through the body, till they see it spurt the blood through its blower; the sight of which is a most joyful sign of the creature's being mortally wounded. The fishermen, upon the killing of a Whale, are each intitled to some small reward. After the Whale is killed, they cut all the lines that are fastened to it, and the tail, off; then it instantly turns on its back; so they tow it to the ship, where they fasten ropes to keep it from sinking; and, when it is cold, begin to cut it up. The body of a Whale is frequently found to be eighteen or twenty inches thick of fat; and yields fifty or sixty puncheons of oil, each puncheon containing seventy-four gallons, and about twelve hundred pieces of whale-bone, most of which are about fifteen feet long, and twelve inches broad, which are all taken out of the jaws, being the gills of the fish: the whole produce of a Whale being worth one thousand pounds, sometimes more or less, according to the goodness of the fish. Whilst the men are at work on the back of the fish, they have spurs on their boots, with two prongs, which come down on each side of their

MANNER OF CATCHING WHALES. 154

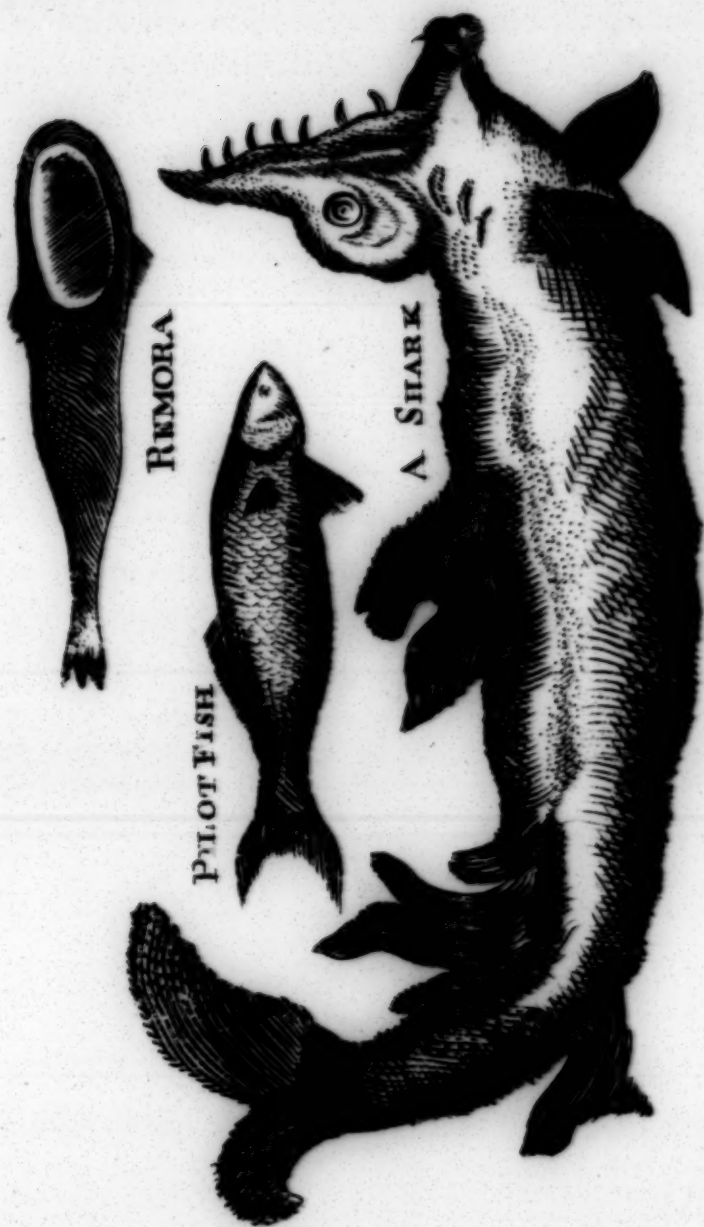
feet, lest they should slip, the back of the Whale being very slippery. These ships have orders to quit those seas by the 24th of June, for then the fish begin to gender, and are very mischievous. The male and female, as the Whale-catchers relate, couple in a most loving manner, by conjunction, leaping, and other tokens of conjugal love; and then swim together, and always preserve the friendship begun, till the female, fired by lust, raising her body perpendicularly quite to her tail, embraces the male, meeting it in the same posture with its fins, as it were with two arms; and they closely continue their carresses for half an hour, or a hour; and after this preserve an inviolable chastity for each other till death. While they swim, it is not easy to distinguish the male from the female, unless from hence, that the latter is bigger than the former. The female has teats, and suckles her young after the manner of land-animals. About ten years ago, the Triton, one of our South Sea Company's ships, killed a female Whale; and, whilst they were cutting her up along side, a young one swam about the ship, and would not forsake the dam, till at length, the Commodore ordered the boat to go out and kill it, which they did, and it produced four puncheons of oil, &c. There is a small fish, by the whale-catchers called Lodd, of which, if the Whales devour any large numbers, they become as it were drunk, and are transported with rage and fury, and exercise outrages against whatever comes in their way. The throat of the Whale is so very strait, that it can hardly take in the arm of a man; therefore it is strange, that this should be the fish that swallowed up Jonah; and more strange, when we are assured by travellers, that no such fish is ever seen in those seas. Some have imagined, that the Prophet was only in the mouth of the Whale, which, indeed, is able to hold more than one man; and more possible for a man to continue

155 MANNER OF CATCHING WHALES.

alive there three days, than in the belly of the fish; and the Whale often coming up to breathe, might the better afford the man an opportunity to breathe also. But it is more probable, that it was not the Whale that swallowed up Jonah; for the word *Ketos*, which is translated the Whale, may as well signify any other great fish.

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THE SHARK is very large, and reckoned the boldest of all fish. Rondeletius says, that he saw a middling one, that weighed near 1000 weight. Gillius says, that he was very credibly informed, that a fish of this sort, not weighing less than 4000 neat pounds, being dissected, had a whole man found in his belly: and that the people of Marseilles told him, they had caught one in which they found a man armed with a coat of mail. The head and mouth of this fish are large in proportion to the body. The number of its teeth varies according to its age; it having been observed by men worthy of credit, that this kind breeds new teeth every year as long as it lives: It has three rows of teeth, hard, strong, and sharp. It is common in the West Indies, &c. and very destructive to those men who divert themselves by swimming, for it sometimes bites a man asunder, at other times takes away a limb, &c. yet is often caught by sailors. When it seizes its prey, it turns itself on its back. Tho' it is vastly strong, yet when it takes the bait, it is soon taken. This fish, when eaten, tastes strong, and has a very tough skin.

THE PILOT-FISH is of a deep blue; the belly of a lighter colour than the back or sides; the scales smooth, like a Tench's: Its back is speckled like a Seal's skin. When swimming it appears much like a Mackarel, and looks as if it were painted blue and white, like a Barber's pole. The Shark is generally attended by one or two of these fish, which he will not devour, tho' very hungry, because they find out the prey for him. It is reckoned a very good fish to eat.

THE REMORA, or *Sucking-Fish*, is about eight or nine inches long, of a dark blue colour, having a Sucker, about two inches long, on the top of his head. The mouth is wide; the eyes small, the under jaw longer than the upper, with two rows of small sharp teeth. It has two fins, one on each side of the gills; two under its belly, two near the tail, and one on the ridge of the back. It is of a slimy nature, and commonly sticks so fast to Sharks, and other large fish, as

not to be easily got off. It is said that Remoras are wont to cleave to keels of ships, and hinder their course.

THE DOLPHIN is a large fish, not much unlike the Porpoise. It swims with two strong fins, which, like the arms of a man, are joined to the shoulder-blades; and is of that swiftness, that it will overtake a ship in full sail before the wind. It produces its young from seed, perfect, one at a time, and sometimes two: it goes with young ten months, and breeds only in the summer. It lives about 25 or 30 years. It generally forebodes a tempest shortly to follow when it frequently moves its body, and sports itself on the water. They are much deceived, who imagine Dolphins to be of the figure they are usually represented on signs; that error being more owing to the unbridled licence of statuary, or painters, than to any such thing found in fact: though, it must be owned, that at the approach of a storm, whilst the Dolphins, leaping and springing from the waves, are seen to precipitate themselves into the deep, they are wont to deceive our sight, and at that time have some resemblance of crookedness. It is said it will live a long time out of the water: One taken at Rimini (according to Gesner) lived three days upon land. Dolphins sometimes swim in shoals sometimes the male and female together, but never singly. Gillius says, that when he was in a ship where many Dolphins were taken, he observed them so to deplore with groans, lamentations, and a flood of tears, their fate, that he could not forbear weeping, and threw that which he observed to groan more than ordinary (the fishermen being asleep) into the water; chusing rather to damage the fishermen, than not to relieve the miserable; but this gave him but little rest, for all the others increased their groans, as seeming, by signs, to beg the same deliverance. It is said that Dolphins have been in great request for food with princes, and purchased at an excessive rate.

THE FLYING-FISH is slender and long, with

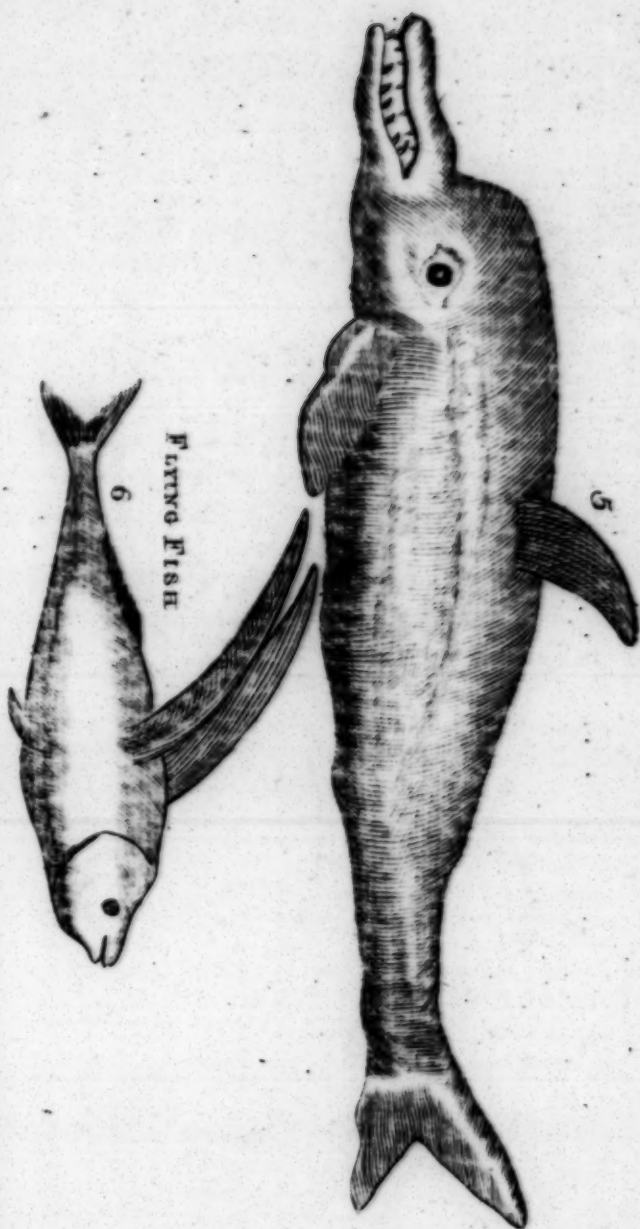
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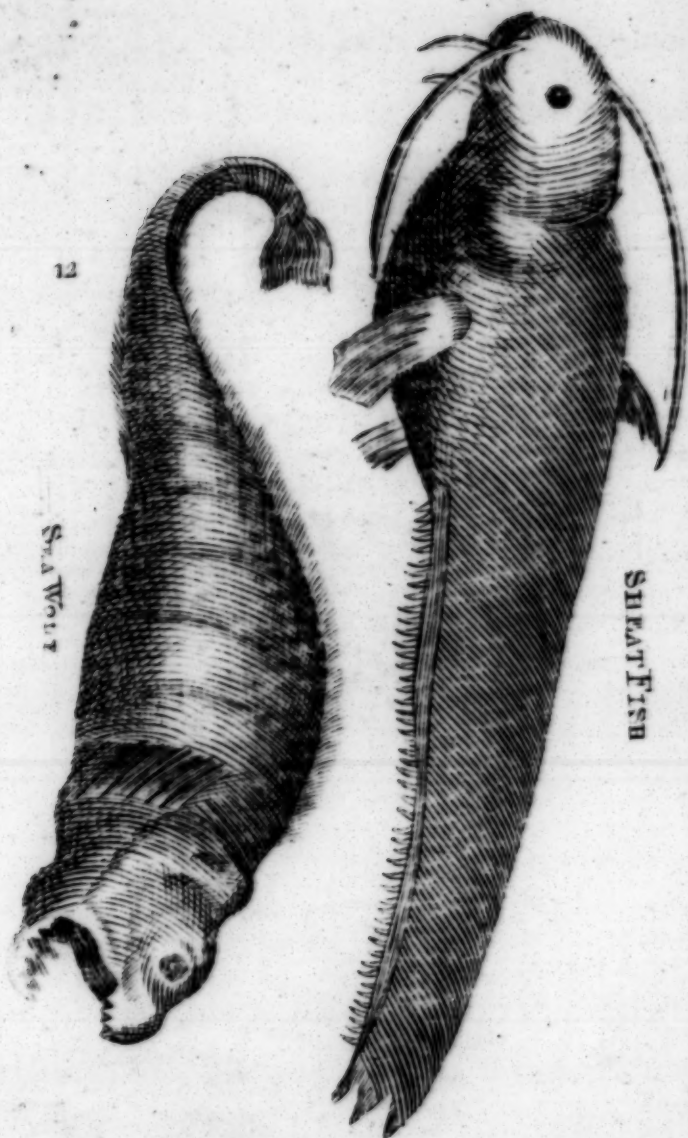
A DOLPHIN

5

FALTING FISH

6





A DESCRIPTION OF FISHES. 161

a large eye: the body is in shape, scales, and colour, like one of our Mulletts: the wings and fins are as represented in the figure. It flies near a gun-shot before it touches the water; and, when it has wet its wings, mounts up again, being chased by the Dolphin, which swims so swift, that it often catches it as it drops into the water.

THE SHEAT-FISH grows to a large magnitude, one of them weighing sometimes eighty pounds. There was one of them taken in the Wixel, a famous river of Poland, about sixteen feet long, and about two broad. It is much of the colour of an Eel; it has no scales; and has only one small fin on the back; the tail not forked. Its flesh is much esteemed by many for the agreeableness of its taste; and is wont to be served up at tables, after the same manner with Eels. All seem to agree in this, that it is a very voracious fish, and, wherever it is found, very mischievous. It is taken in the Elbe, the Wixel, and the Danube; and sometimes, but more rarely, in the Rhine; also in certain lakes in Switzerland, Bavaria, Hungary, &c. especially the lesser and muddy ones; for it seems to love troubled waters.

THE SEA-WOLF is taken at Hilligland, an island not far from the mouth of the Elbe. It is about three feet in length; it has a bigger and a rounder head than a Shark. The back, sides, and fins, are of a bluish or a blackish colour; about the belly white. Its whole skin is smooth and slippery, without scales. It is of a very voracious nature, and furnished with very destructive teeth. It is said, that it will sometimes fasten on an anchor with its teeth, and leave the print of them behind it. It has a double row of sharp and round teeth, ten or twelve in a row, both in the upper and lower jaw.

THE BUTTERFLY-FISH is about five or six inches in length; of a faint blue or ash-colour; having no scales. It has a black spot in the fin on its back. Its flesh is soft and tender. At Venice, in the month of October, amongst other fish, it is frequently exposed to sale.

THE TRUMPET, or *Bellows-Fish*, is about three or four inches long, hardly one inch broad: the snout in proportion to the body is very large. It is taken in the ocean, when roused by a storm.

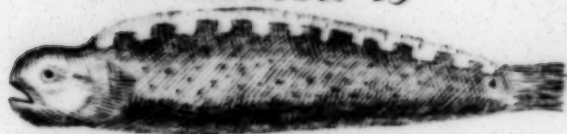
THE SUN-FISH has a wide and short body. Its hinder part is invironed with a circular fin, which serves it instead of a tail, so that it may seem to be but the head of a fish; or a fish but in part, rather than a whole one. It sometimes weighs a hundred pounds, and is between two and three feet in length. It is not scaly, but covered with a hard, thick, and sharp skin; the colour on the back is black; on the belly a silver colour; its sides partake of both. Its flesh is very soft. Its bones gristly and soft. It is taken in the Mediterranean, and also in the ocean.

THE SEA-ADDER (so called by the people of St. Ives) has a long, smooth, and slender body, without scales. Its colour is a green, tinged with red; the eyes small. It is about the bigness of a Goose-quill, and three or four inches long; it has but one fin, and that only on the back.

THE fish called FATHER-LASHER is about six inches long; the head and forepart of the body very large, in proportion to its size; the hinder part towards the tail waxing less. It has no scales. It feeds upon Shrimps, and other small fish, and watery insects. It is taken about the coast of Flanders and Holland.

THE *Bull Head*, or MILLER'S-THUMB, is about three or four inches long, seldom comes up to half a foot. It has no scales; the back is yellowish, with a few little black spots. It has a large head, and great round mouth; out of the fins grow

BUTTER FISH 13



TRUMPET FISH 14



SUN FISH 15



SEA ADDER 16



FATHER
LASKER
17



MOLGER TRUMP 18



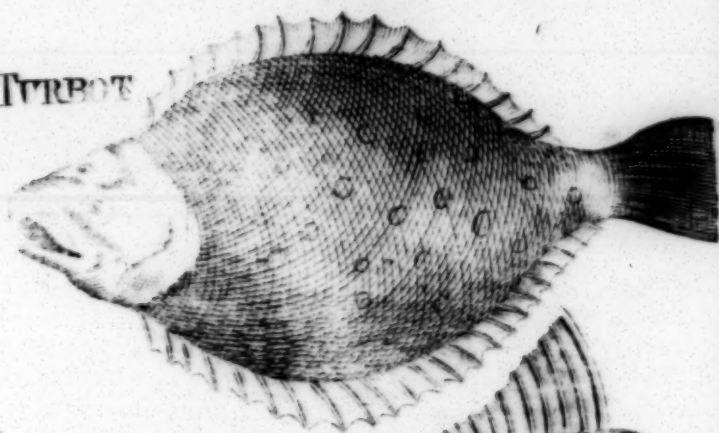
19 SEA FOWL



20 MONK FISH



21 TURBOT



BUTTER FLY FISH



A DESCRIPTION OF FISHES. 165

several sharp prickles, or thorns, especially in the parts towards the head; so that it is not easily taken hold of, when alive, without wounding the hand, unless by the tail. It is frequently seen in rivulets, ponds, &c. in the rocks about the sea-shore. It feeds on watery insects.

THE SEA-FOX, or APE, has (according to Rondeletius) its former name from the length of its tail, and both together, from the craftiness and wiliness of its nature, or else from its unsavoury taste or smell; for it gives so bad and unwelcome a flavour, whilst eating, that it seems to participate much of the strong scent and taste of a Fox. One of them will sometimes weigh 100 pounds weight. This fish is of a roundish and firm body. It is in mighty fear for its young, and when apprehensive of danger, receives them into its belly: of which matter Rondeletius declares himself to have been an eye-witness: for, (says he) when a fish of this kind was dissected on the shore, we saw young ones in its belly, which the fishermen thought it had devoured for food; but seeing they were found to be alive and unhurt, there was no room to doubt that the dam had taken them in to rescue them from danger. This fish is sometimes taken in the Mediterranean.

THE MONK-FISH, or Angel-Fish, increases to a vast bulk, and sometimes weighs near 100 pounds: the colour of the back and sides is darkish; the belly white. It is not approved of as good food. This fish is frequently seen near the coast of Cornwall, &c.

THE TURBOT is sometimes two feet and a half long, and about two broad. It has no scales; all the upper part of the body is of an ash-colour variously sprinkled, and, as it were, marbled with black spots, some greater, and some less: this fish gives place to few for goodness, and agreeableness of its taste; and is thought, by some, to excel the Flounder, as much in goodness as in bulk. It is very often caught in the British and German ocean.

THE SWORD-FISH has a snout so resembling the figure of a sword, that from thence it has its name. Its weight is sometimes above a hundred pounds. They are frequently seen fifteen feet in length. It has a longish body; towards the head thick, towards the tail small; a rough skin, black on the back, like a Shark; the belly white; a middling mouth, but no teeth. Its tail is like a half-moon. Sword-fishes are taken off the coast of Naples and the sea of Sicily, after the following manner: spies are placed on high cliffs that hang over the sea, to observe the place and every motion of the fish, that they may tell the fishermen, who wait below in boats, by signs before agreed on, where to steer; which the fishermen observing as soon as they draw nigh to the fish, some one skilled in fishing gets up a small mast in the boat, erected for that purpose, and observes the motion of that fish he designs to strike at; and by signs given, directs the rowers where to row or turn about; and as soon as he is come very nigh the fish, the fishermen, with an instrument like the harping-iron, strikes the fish, and kills it, something like the manner of killing Whales. The flesh is esteemed, by the natives of those places upon whose coasts they are taken, to be as good as Sturgeon.

THE SEA-UNICORN, (*as represented in next plate*) is found about Greenland, and other Northern islands, and of the nature of the Whale. On the top of the upper jaw, it hath only one tooth, or horn, of a large size, being six or seven feet in length, sometimes more, and in thickness equal in proportion to its length; straight and tapering, curled or twisted about to the end. The female is said to have no horn, but a hollow in that place of the forehead. The horn is made use of by the Dutch as ivory. This fish is about nine feet in length, casts its young like the Whale, which is after the manner of land animals, and is supposed to receive them into its belly, when danger is near. One of

A SWORD FISH





SEA UNICORN 7



PICKARD DOG 8



PORPOISE 9

A DESCRIPTION OF FISHES. 169

our Greenland ships, about eight or nine years ago, found a female of this kind dead on the ice, and in the belly of it a female young one, which was in length, from the tip of its snout to the end of its tail, six feet. It is not to be supposed, that a young one of that bigness had been ever brought forth; or that the Dam devoured it for food, but rather that it took it in to secure it from some great danger; this account I had from two persons worthy of credit, who were eye-witnesses of this fact.

A PICKED-DOG, or *Hound-fish*, has a long, round tapering body, without scales. It is covered with a sharp skin, which is used to polish alabaster, arrows, &c. Its snout is long, and a little roundish at the point. It seldom weighs 20 pounds. Many of these fish are taken in the British ocean and Irish sea.

THE PORPESSE is, from the tip of its snout to the end of the tail, about three or four feet in length, and about two feet and a half thick. Its figure is somewhat long and round, continually tapering towards the tail. It is covered with a slender thin skin, not fenced with scales. The colour of the back is of a dark blue, inclining to black: from the middle of the side it begins to whiten; the belly is altogether white. Its eyes are very small. It has only three fins like the Dolphin; one on the middle of the back, and one on each shoulder; the tail is forked. When this fish is cut up, its flesh looks very much like Pork. There are great numbers of Porpesses seen on the English coasts, especially in Mackerel and Herring seasons; at which time they are wont to do very great damage to fishermen, by breaking and destroying their nets to get at the fish; and sometimes so entangle and wrap themselves up in them that they are often taken. They swim but very little way at a time before they come up to breathe; and, when they come up, blow or breathe very loud, so that, in calm weather, they may be heard at a great distance. These fish will sometimes

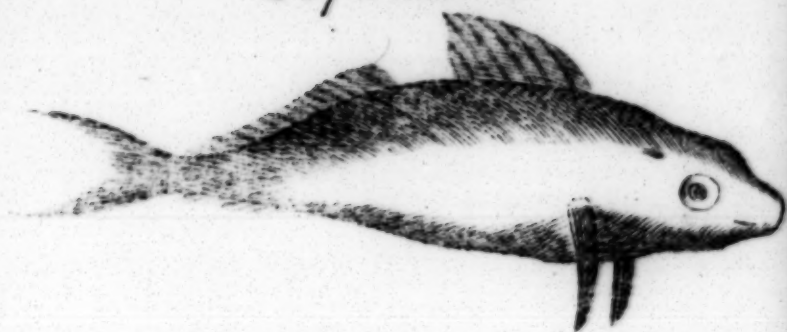
pursue their prey close to the shore, nay even in the very harbour.

THE STURGEON has a long body, with five rows of scales; two on each side, and one on the back; the scales of the upper row being greater than the rest, rise higher; of these there is no certain number. It has been observed, that some have eleven, some twelve, and others thirteen. This row is extended from the head, to the fin of the back, near the tail. The rows on the sides extend from the head to the very tail, made up of 30 sharp thorns or prickles. The lower rows, are each made up of eleven, twelve, or thirteen: all the scales of all the rows in general have on their tops a strong sharp thorn or prickle, bending backwards. Besides these five rows, it has only two scales in the middle of the belly, the rest of the belly being smooth. It has a middling head, and very small eyes. The snout is long, broad, and sharp; it has a little mouth, without teeth: it has no chaps, from whence it is manifest it feeds by sucking. The tail is cloven like the Shark's; the upper fork shoots out beyond the lower a considerable way. The upper part of this fish is betwixt a grey and a black; the belly of a silver colour. The river Sturgeons are vastly bigger than the sea ones; these not much exceeding a foot and a half, the former sometimes above fourteen feet. In the Elbe there are sometimes Sturgeons taken that weigh 200 net pounds; and are often exposed to sale in the markets of Venice and Rome. Sturgeons are taken in the Nile, the Tanais, the Danube, and the Po. Bellonius writes that they are in the Black-Sea, and in the Meer of Mæotis; from which places their eggs, which are otherwise black, being carried, made up in a huge mass, salted, and put up into barrels, are sold amongst the Turks, Greeks, and Venetians; which by them is called Caviary. In Holland they cut Sturgeons in pieces, and preserve them in barrels. The flesh, thus salted and pickled is in great request with us.

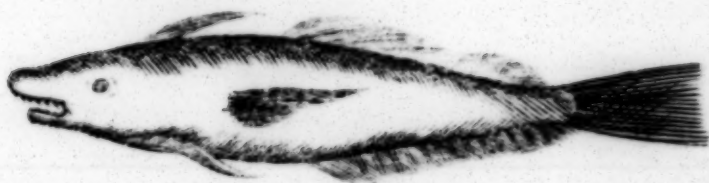
STURGEON 18



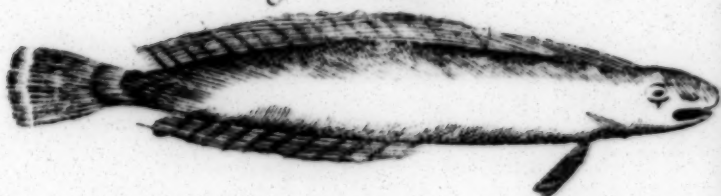
= 27 A. HADDOCK



28 AWHITING



29 The Ling



A DESCRIPTION OF FISHES. 173

Sturgeons are bred in the sea, but come to their perfection in rivers. They are taken with nets, but seldom or never with hooks.

THE HADDOCK is much less than the Cod, and differs somewhat from it in shape. It is of a blackish colour on the back; with small scales. A black line is carried on from the upper corner of its gills to the tail. In the middle of the sides, under the line, a little beneath the gills, there is a black spot on each side, which something resembles the print of a man's finger and thumb; of which there goes a fable, That this was the fish mentioned in the xvii. of St. Matthew, out of the mouth of which St. Peter took the piece of money with which he paid tribute for his Master and himself; and while he held the fish with his fore-finger and thumb (they say) these marks were impressed. The flesh is harder and thicker than the flesh of a Whiting, and perhaps not quite so good. Among the East-Friesland-ers, where the sea is very muddy, and shallow, it is thought to excite Fevers; but in the Northumbrian sea, which is very deep, full of water, and clear, it is very innocent.

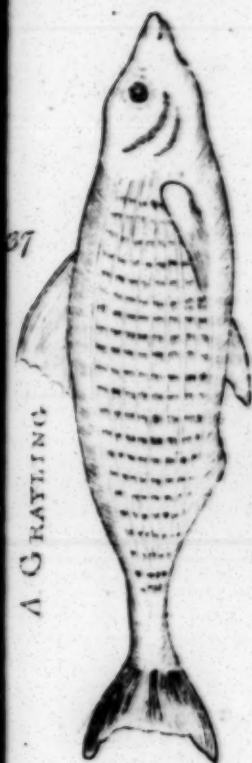
THE WHITING seldom much exceeds one foot in length, and is, in proportion to its bulk, thin and slender, especially towards the tail; for about the head it is thicker. Its scales are small; the back whiter than the rest of the fish of this make and nature; from whence it obtained the name of Whiting; the belly is altogether white. It is taken almost every where on the English coast, &c. The flesh of this fish is both pleasant and innocent, and greatly esteemed by many people.

THE LING is about two feet in length, of a long, round, slender body; and has small scales; the back and sides of some are of an olive colour, others grizzled, or grey; the belly white; this fish is, in shape and colour, pretty much like a Pike. It is taken in the north seas, &c. Its flesh, by some people, is e-

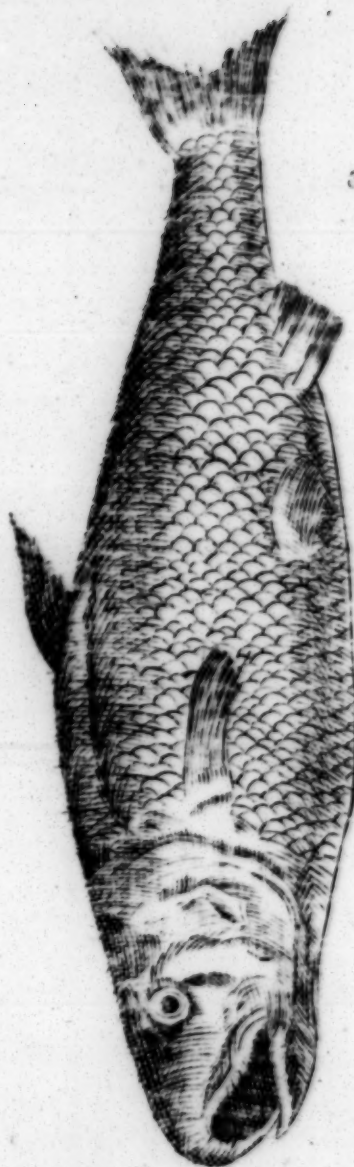
steemed delicate, when fresh; and, when salted and dried, preferred to all other salt-fish.

THE GRAYLING is of a longer and closer body than a Trout. It has a smooth belly; a back bowed. Some of the biggest that are caught in Amber, a river of Lombardy, weigh about a pound and a half. The back is of the colour between blue and green; the sides are grey, shining with a resplendency of gold colour. It has a small head, a full eye, and a forked tail; Is frequently taken in Athesis, a river near Trent, and thro' Verona, into the Adriatic sea; and in many rivers of Germany and England. It feeds on watery insects; spawns in May, and is esteemed the tenderest, and best-tasted of almost all river-fish.

THE SALMON in the river Ribble in Yorkshire are, by the people in those parts, the first year called Smelts, the second Sprods, the third Morts, the fourth Fork-tails, the fifth Half Fish, and in the sixth year, when thoroughly grown, Salmon. But in other places they are called Salmon sooner. Some of the largest weigh thirty-six pounds. The Salmon is a long fish, scaled with small, slender scales; it has a little head; a sharp snout, and a forked tail; the back approaching to blue; the rest of the body white. Near the end of November they carry together to the highest part of the rivers both greater and less, what they unburden into them; and, as far as they can, they get up for the sake of spawning. They look about for a place to spawn in, such as where the river is broken at the bottom, or gravelly, and where the stream runs rapidly; though sometimes they seem to delight in deep and troubled waters. They begin not long after the summer solstice; and from thence, thro' autumn and winter, proceed to spawn; some continue till the beginning of March. The flesh of a Salmon, before it is boiled, is white; but when boiled, or salted, becomes red. It is a fat, tender, sweet fish; a little soon satisfies. It is thought to excel in delicacy all sea-



A GRAYLING

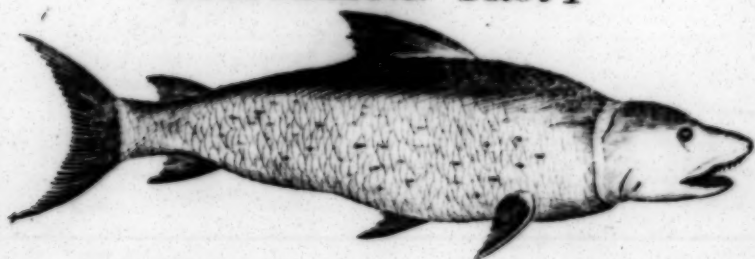


A SALMON

39 GILT CHARRE



40 A SALMON TROUT



41 A TROUT



A DESCRIPTION OF FISHES. 177

fish, but is not the most wholesome, especially for sick persons. The Salmon feeds on earth-worms, menows, and other small fish.

THE GILT-CHARRE is much like the Trout: Its scales are very small: the colour of the back is not so dark as the Trout's, diversified with black spots; the belly is white; the snout bluish.—This fish is esteemed very delicate by the Italians; nay, so highly do they value it, that they think neither river nor pond-fish equal or comparable to it; so great is their opinion of its wholesomeness, that they give them to their sick and infirm people. These fish are found in the lake Winander-meer, in Westmoreland, as well as at Logo di gardo, a leak near Venice.

THE SALMON-TROUT, in the figure of its body, resembles a river-Trout. The head and back of a mixture of green and blue; the body is besprinkled all over with black spots; the scales small, of a silver colour; the tail forked. Salmon-trouts frequently weigh thirty pounds, and in some places above forty. In the beginning of summer, their flesh begins to reddens, and holds the colour till August. But some time after St. Jame's day, when they have done spawning it loses its redness. Salmon trouts are esteemed by many people as very delicate fish; their flesh is solid, red, and of a good relish, and approaches very near to the nature of Gilt Charres. On account of its fatness it occasions a loathing, (like Salmon,) wherefore it should be eaten sparingly. Some prefer it to Salmon. If it be not dressed soon after it is dead, it loses much of its agreeable taste, being a fish that, from its great quantity of fat, soon tends to putrefaction.

THE TROUT, as to its figure, is rather long than broad, like a Salmon. It has a short, roundish head, a blunt snout, and is in many respects like the Salmon. Trouts breed and live in small rivers, &c. They feed on river-flies, watery insects, and some small fishes; and so greedy are they of flies, that fishermen, for want of natural, often take them with artifi-

cial ones. The Trout is thought to be, by many people, the noblest fish that is taken in fresh waters. The flesh of a Trout, especially when old, is drier than that of a Salmon, and therefore more hard of digestion. Those are the best that are taken in the purest waters. In the month of December they spawn, making themselves beds in the gravelly bottoms of ponds, dykes, &c. Contrary to a number of other fish, they are least esteemed when nearest spawning: in the month of July, and August, they are most fat and best tasted. The ancient Romans, so far as we know, had no Latin name for a Trout, which is the more to be wondered at, because in the rivers near Rome there are now to be found many of these fish; from whence there is little reason to doubt there were formerly.

THE PLAISE is a small, flat, firm fish, sometimes a foot, or more, long, and about seven inches broad: the back and fins are spotted with round red spots. This fish being so plentiful, and every where so well known, no more need be said of it.

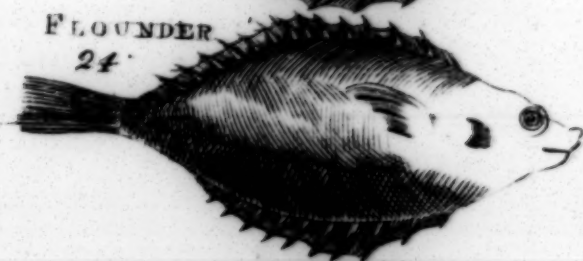
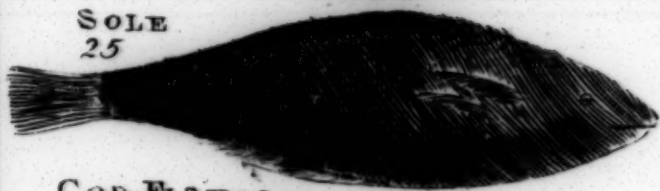
THE DAB is thicker than the Plaife, and about the same size; has larger scales, and no reddish spots.

THE FLOUNDER differs little or nothing in shape from the Plaife, unless that it is a little longer in the body, and, when fully grown, somewhat thicker; the back is of a dark olive colour, spotted. Some Flounders have yellowish spots, both on the back and fins. Its taste, and other properties agree with the Plaife no less than in its shape and colour. Flounders are taken in rivers and bays about Britain.

THE SOLE is a smooth fish, of a longer and more contracted body than the Flounder; being about a foot in length; the back is of a darkish ash-colour; the belly white. It is a more firm and solid flesh than the Flounder, and esteemed more excellent, for the pleasantness of its taste, the plenty of nourishment it affords, and the goodness of its juice. Soles are taken in the British seas, the Mediterranean, &c.

THE COD-FISH, or Keeling, is in shape and co-

PLAISE 22

DAB
23FLOUNDER
24SOLE
25

COD-FISH 26

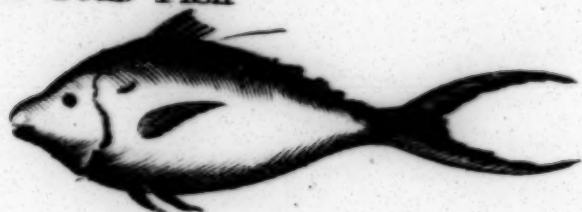


180

SILVER FISH



50 GOLD FISH



51 LADY FISH



52 THE PIKE



four like a Whiting, but something darker on the back, diversified with yellowish spots. Some of these fish are three feet long, or more, and of a proportionable thickness. Its scales are small, sticking very close to the skin: and its eyes large. It is taken almost every where in the sea about Britain, especially northward. Its flesh is excellent, both fresh and salted. The head of a large Cod, which is thick and fleshy, is, for the deliciousness of its taste, much celebrated by voluptuaries, and placed at the tables of the rich amongst their daintiest dishes.

THE SILVER-FISH is smooth, broad, and thin; of a shining pearl colour. It has five small dark streaks across the broadest part of the body; two long yellow fins, one on the back, the other under the belly, from which runs a small darkish feathered fin, almost to the tail, and two small dark fins on each side the gills. It has six sharp prickles from the yellow fin towards the head, and three under the belly: has a large mouth, sharp teeth, and a forked tail.

THE GOLD-FISH is very beautiful, shaped almost like the Silver-fish, except the long fins; it is all of a gold colour, except a few black streaks: has a very large mouth, but no teeth, and its flesh is good.

THE LADY-FISH is a small sort, about three inches long, and one broad. Her fins and tail are yellow; her belly white; her back and sides marbled with yellowish brown spots, and very beautiful streaks.

THE PIKE is of a long and round body; has a plain smooth head; is covered with small close set-together scales, of a white colour, and the body on all sides sprinkled with yellowish spots, in the young ones more green. The upper jaw has no teeth; these by turns are moveable and fixed: as for example; the first moveable, the second fixed; the third moveable, the fourth fixed; and so throughout. The Pike inhabits rivers, lakes, ponds, &c. and is very common in Britain. It is no sea-fish, nor often found in the mouths of rivers, unless carried thither by the force and violence of the waves, and then it is void of juice, unpleasant, and ready to putrefy. From its greediness of eating, it will often disgorge its stomach of those

fish it had taken in : sometimes it will swallow a fish not a great deal less than itself, taking the head in foremost, the tail hanging out of the mouth, and so draws it in by little and little at a time, till he has compassed the whole. The Pike is of a white, firm, dry flesh, and wholesome : the larger and older, the more esteemed.

THE TOBACCO-PIPE-FISH is about three or four feet in length : it has no teeth ; the body is in shape something like a Snake : the skin is very slippery ; the head is about a foot long : the eyes are about the size of a Filbert, and like it in shape.

THE HORN, or GAR-FISH, has a long and slender body, a very long sharp snout ; the back green ; sides and belly of a silver colour ; and head of a bluish green. The under jaw is longer than the upper ; both armed with very sharp teeth ; the upper jaw is moveable. Its flesh is hard, dry, and but indifferent meat.

THE ANCHOVY is a fish about four or five inches long ; some have been seen more than a span in length. It is a long, slender fish, with a round body, transparent, unless where the back-bone hinders ; and without scales. Its back is of a dusky, or a mixture of green and ash-colour ; the belly of a silver colour ; the nose sharp ; the eyes large ; the tail forked. They are taken at Venice, Genoa, &c. are preserved in barrels, salted, and so brought to Britain.

THE OLD WIFE is a pretty large fish. It has a very small mouth ; large eyes ; a great fin on the back ; the body is of a deep blue ; the fins are of a lighter colour ; and white under the belly. The flesh of this fish is indifferent good meat.

THE CAVALLO is about the bigness of a Makarel. The fins and tail are like a Dolphin's. It has a black back, and white belly, with a long black streak from the gills to the middle of the tail, and large eyes.

THE CARP lives in rivers, ponds, &c. and arrives to a large magnitude ; some have been seen above four feet in length, and not only long, but for the most part fat, the back rising from its head somewhat sharp and edged. It is covered with very large, strong, broad, scales ; is of a yellowish colour, especially when come to age ; the younger sort are more inclined to a dusky colour ; the head is short, in proportion to the rest of the body.

42 TOBACCO PIPE FISH



43 HORN or GAR FISH



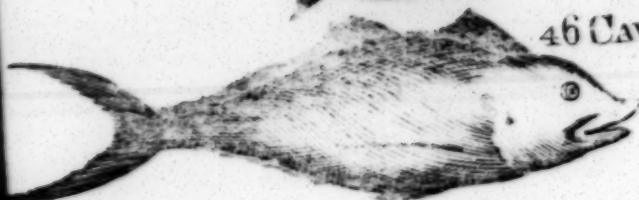
44 ANCHOVY



45 OLD WIFE



46 CAVALLO



47 CARP



MAKAREL 30



HERRING 31



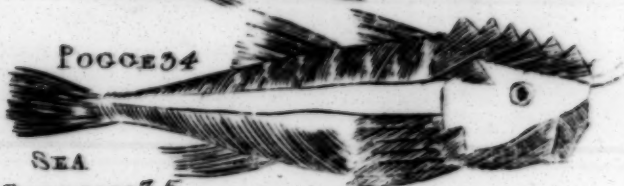
SPRAT 32



SMELT 33



POGGE 34

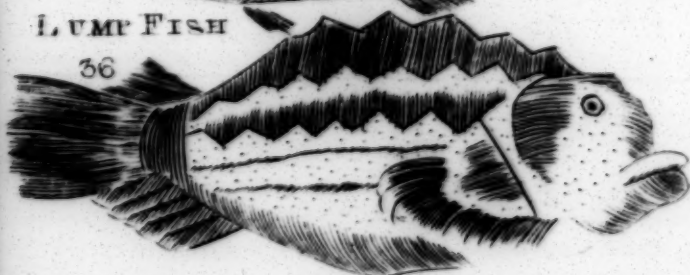


SEA
GUDGEON 35



LUMP FISH

36



A DESCRIPTION OF FISHES. 185

It has no teeth. It swims with broad fins: the tail is broad, and somewhat forked, of a colour between a red and a black: as is also the last fin. It has no tongue, but in the room of that nature hath given it a fleshy palate, that it may relish its food. It spawns five or six times in the year. They are of a soft, moist, and clammy nature; those which live in rivers near great cities, and by that means take in the filth of them, are of a bad juice, notwithstanding by some Epicures they are very much esteemed upon account of their largeness and fatness; those are the most approved of, which live in rapid and pure waters; those in pools and ponds have a muddy taste. In the Palatinate, at a place called Vichelsfield, in a moat round a tower (Gefner says, he received it from a man worthy of credit) that a Carp was taken out of that place that had lived 100 years. Leonard Mascall, about 140 years ago, says, that he first brought Carps into England, tho' now they are common almost every where. They will live a long while out of the water.

THE MAKAREL is usually about a foot in length, or more; the body is thick, firm, and fleshy, slender towards the tail; the snout sharp, the tail forked; the back is of a lovely green, beautifully speckled, or, as it were painted, with black streaks; the belly of a silver colour; it has small scales. It is a voracious fish, greedily swallowing down whatever fish comes in its way, that it can master. They swim together in large shoals, and are taken in great numbers on the British coasts, in the month of May and June; and are also taken, and well known, in most parts of the world.

THE HERRING, a fish well known, is about nine or ten inches long, and about two and a half broad; it has large round scales; a two forked tail: the body is of a fat, soft, delicate flesh; if eaten too greedily, apt to breed fevers. The Herring is by some called the king of fish. They swim in shoals, and spawn once in a year, about the autumnal equinox; at which time they are best. There are incredible numbers of Herrings on the British coasts, which are caught in nets, chiefly in the night. It has been frequently observed, that, after a hard gale of wind, very large numbers have been taken.

Makarel and Herrings commonly swim near the surface of the water.

THE SPRAT (*see fig. 32. page 184.*) by some, is thought to be no other than a young Herring; as upon the strictest comparing of this fish with the Herring, little or no difference can be found, either in the external or internal parts, or in the taste. They are taken in great numbers about the Winter solstice, and sold commonly by measure. Sprats have been taken yearly about Easter time in a certain lake about Cheshire, commonly called Rostern-meer: At which place have been caught with a draught-net, twenty or thirty at a time. At which time, or a little before they are taken in the lake, they are also taken in great numbers in the saltier waters below Warrington bridge, in the river Mersey; which river is washed by the sea, in which it ebbs and flows seven or eight miles below the lake.

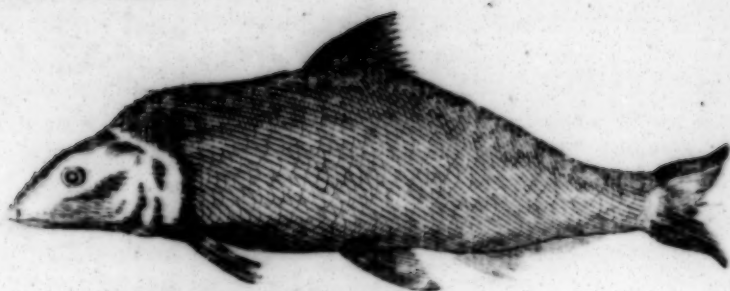
THE SMELT (*see fig. 33. page 184.*) is in length about eight or nine inches, and one broad. The back is of a dusky colour; the belly and sides a resplendent white, or silver colour. The head and back, to a curious observer, appear sprinkled with black spots. Its flesh is soft and tender, of a delicate flavour, yielding a most agreeable scent, like that of a violet. Smelts are taken in the Thames, and other large rivers.

THE FODGE (*see fig. 34. page 184.*) is a fish about two spans long, at the most. The body, towards the head, very thick; towards the tail, slender and sharp. This fish is often taken in the sea that washeth the bishoprick of Durham.

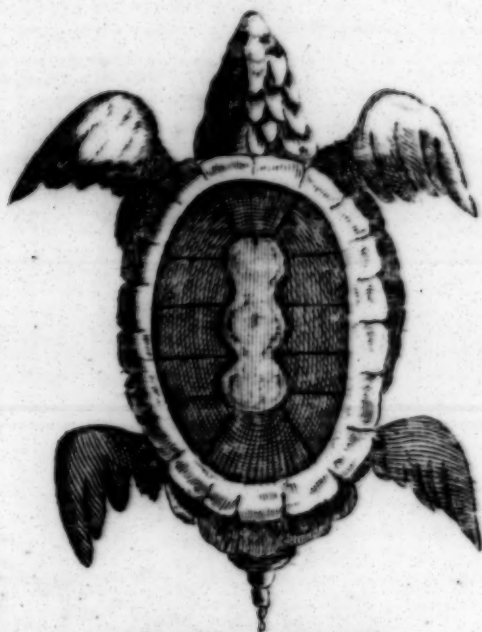
THE SEA-GUDGEON (*see fig. 35. page 184.*) has a long and roundish body. It seldom exceeds six inches in length. The colour is various: the tail and fins of a pale blue: the head is large, and has a double round of small teeth: it has two fins on the back: the tail, when extended, appears circular: it has small sharp scales: whence now, as formerly, it is in great esteem amongst the Venetians.

THE LUMP, or SEA OWL, (*see fig. 36. page 184.*) is a thick, odd-shaped fish, its colour, from a blackish and faint red, varied: the belly is red: it has no scales, but is on all sides rough with sharp Black pustules, or





53 THE BREAM



54 SEA TORTOISE

warts: on each side it has three rows of sharp prickles; it has two fins on the back. It is taken in many places about England, and is often in the fish-markets at London. It is about a foot in length, and about ten inches broad. Its flesh is not comparable to any other fish.

THE BREAM is a broad fish, of a small head, sharp snout; the top of the head pretty broad and smooth; the back bending, edged, rising sensibly from the head, like a swine's. Its back is betwixt blue and black; its sides and belly white, especially in those that are young and lean; as for those that are grown up, and fat, the sides shine with a golden colour: the belly is red. Its mouth, in proportion to its size, is very small, and without teeth. Its palate soft and fleshy, like that of a Carp; its flesh is soft and clammy. Voluptuaries are most delighted with its middle part. Breams are very common with us in rivers, pools, and fish-ponds. They spawn in May: the males in spawning-time are marked about the head with white spots. They seldom weigh above four or five pounds. In March and April they are in highest esteem.

SEA-TORTOISES are of various sorts; all of them are good food, especially the green, and the Logger-head. Some are so large, that they weigh near four hundred pounds. They are taken, when sleeping on the water, or land, by turning them on their backs; for they cannot turn over again. The females go ashore, to lay their eggs in the sand, above high water mark, where they will lay fifty or sixty at a time, and cover them with sand, which by the heat of the sun are hatched; and the young ones, as soon as they are out of the shell, crawl to the sea. Their eggs are round, and about the bigness of a hen's: they lay two or three times in a year, so that they increase vastly. The lean of the green Tortoise tastes and looks like veal, without any fishy flavour; the fat is as green as grass, and very sweet.

A
D E S C R I P T I O N
O F
SERPENTS AND INSECTS.

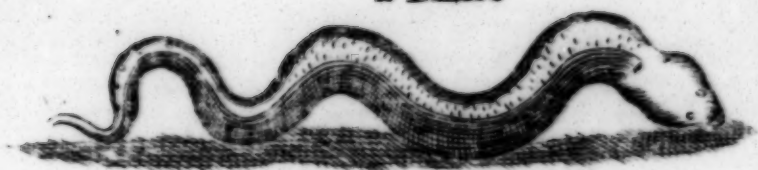
B O O K IV.

THE DRAGON, as described in the numerous fables and stories of several writers, may be justly questioned whether he exists. I have read of Serpents bred in Arabia, called *Sirena*, which have wings, being very swift running or flying at pleasure, and when they wound a man he dies instantly. These are supposed to be a kind of Dragons. It is said there are divers sorts of these, which are distinguished by their countries and magnitude, and by the different form of their external parts. They are said to be bred in India and Africa; those of India are much the largest, being of an incredible length; and of these there are also said to be two kinds, one of them living in the marshes, which are slow of pace, and without combs on their heads: the other in the mountains, which are bigger, and with combs on their heads; their backs being somewhat brown, and their bodies less scaled: some of them are of a yellow, fiery colour, having sharp backs, like saws. These also have beards. When they set up their scales, they shine like silver; the apples of their eyes are (as it is said) precious stones, and as bright as fire, in which, it is affirmed, there is a great virtue against many diseases. Their aspect is very fierce and terrible. Some Dragons are said to have wings, and no feet; some again both feet and wings; and others neither feet nor wings, and are only distinguished from the common sort of Serpents, by the combs growing upon their heads, and their beards. Some affirm that the Dragon is black, the belly green, and beautiful; that it has a triple row of teeth in each jaw; and bright shining eyes; also two dewlaps growing under the chin, which hang down like a beard, of a red colour, and the body set all over with sharp scales; and on the neck with thick hair, much like the bristles of a wild Boar.

DRAGONS



2 DART



3 COCKATRICE



4 ASP



5 RATTLE-SNAKE



A DESCRIPTION OF SERPENTS. 192

THE DART is so called from his flying like an arrow, from the tops of trees, and hedges, upon men, which means he stings and wounds them to death. It is bred in Lybia, Rhodes, Italy, Sicily, Germany, and some other countries. It is in thickness about the bigness of a man's finger, and proportionable in length. The top of the back is black, with two black lines in the middle, from the head to the tail: the body is of an ash-colour, full of small round black spots, each spot having a circle about it, like an eye; the belly is white. Of this kind, some think, was the Viper which came upon the hand of St. Paul, and that annoyed the rebellious Israelites in the wilderness.

THE COCKATRICE is called the King of Serpents, not from his bigness, but because of his majestic pace, for he does not creep like other Serpents, but goes half upright; for which cause all other Serpents avoid him; and, it seems, nature designed him that pre-eminence by the crown or coronet upon his head. Some are of opinion that this animal is brought forth of a Cock's egg, which is generated of the putrefied seed of an old Cock, and sitten upon by a Snake, or Toad, and so becomes a Cockatrice. It is said to be about half a foot in length; the hinder part like a Serpent, the fore part like a Cock: others are of opinion, that the Cock that lays the egg, sits upon, and hatches it himself. These monsters are bred in Africa, and some other parts of the world. Some say it is a span in compass, and half a foot long; others will have it to be three or four feet long; and some the thickness of a man's wrist, and a proportionable length. The eyes of a Cockatrice are red. Its poison is so strong, that there is no cure for it. The Cockatrice is very fearful of a Weasel, which, after it has eaten rue, will set upon, and destroy the Cockatrice. Besides this little animal, it is said no other creature can contend with it. Its poison is so infectious, that it kills by touch, by sight, and by hissing.

THE ASP is a small Serpent, like to the land-snake, but of a broader back. Its neck swells, when provoked, to a great degree; and if it stings any person in that passion, there can be no remedy: the stroak of its eyes is exceeding red and flaming. There are two pieces of

193 A DESCRIPTION OF SERPENTS.

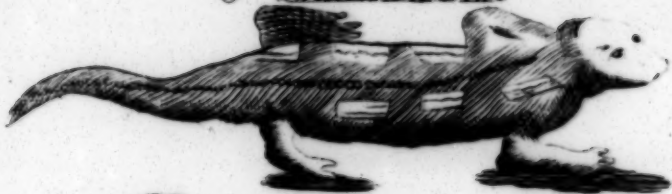
flesh, like a hard skin, which grow out of its fore-head. Its teeth are very long, and grow out of its mouth like a Boar's, and through two of the longest are little hollows, out of which it ejects its poison. These holes are covered with a thin skin, which slides up, when the Serpent bites, by which means the poison comes out of the holes, which skin afterwards returns to its place again. The scales of the Asp are hard, dry, and red, above all other venomous beasts; and, by reason of its exceeding drought, it is also accounted deaf. Asps are said to be from three to six feet in length, and some not above a foot and a half; the shortest is said to kill the soonest. They are bred in several countries, but chiefly in Africa, where they are most venomous, and will kill a man instantly, without any possible remedy. The Egyptians are said to shew a great veneration to these very dangerous creatures, and will not destroy them, but suffer them to come into their rooms; and when they have dined or supped themselves, always provide something for the Asps, which they will receive in a courteous manner; and, when they have done, retire without doing any harm.

THE RATTLE-SNAKE (*see fig. 5. page 191.*) is so called from certain rattles at the end of the tail; these rattles seem like so many perished joints, being a dry husk over certain joints; and the common opinion is, that there are as many rattles or joints as the Snake is years old; they have generally eleven, twelve, or thirteen of these joints; but the young ones of a year or two old have no rattles, but they may be known notwithstanding, being regularly diced or chequered black and grey on the backs. The old shake and shiver these rattles with wonderful nimbleness; when they are any way disturbed, their bite is very deadly, yet not always of the same force, but more or less mortal, according as the Snake is in force or vigour; and therefore in June and July much worse, and more mortal, than in March and April. This Snake is a very majestic sort of creature, and will scarce meddle with any thing, unless provoked: but if any thing offend it, it makes directly at it. The best method of curing its bite is to burn the part immediately.

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6 SALAMANDER



7 VIPER



8 FROG



9 TOAD



A DESCRIPTION OF SERPENTS. 195

THE SALAMANDER resembles a common Lizard, but is rather larger, it has four legs, which are longer than a Lizard's, and also a tail longer than a Lizard's. It has a pale white belly, though sometimes the belly is yellowish; One part of its skin is exceeding black, and the other yellow; both of them very bright and glittering with a black line going all along the back, where those spots are, out of which, as some writers will have it, a certain liquor or humour proceeds, which quencheth the heat of fire, when it is in the same. Salamanders are bred in the Alps, and in some parts of Germany, in marshy, wet places; and are said to be cold as ice. The vulgar notion, agreeing with the opinion of several ancient writers, that a Salamander can live in, and not be burnt by the fire, is without any foundation of truth, for the experiment has been tried, as Pliny affirms, and the Salamander was consumed and burnt to ashes. The truth is, as long as the humour before mentioned runs, the fire cannot hurt it; but when that moisture is dried up, the fire consumes the Salamander, and that instantly: the bite of this creature is very deadly and fatal. It is a saying in France, that a man bit by a Salamander should have as many physicians to cure him as the Salamander has spots.

THE VIPER, or Adder, is about a foot and a half in length. The tail curled at the end, very small and sharp: the head is very broad, compared with the body; and the neck much narrower than the head. It is commonly black on the back, sometimes greenish, or yellowish: the eyes are very red, and flaming; the belly winding, upon which it goeth, and slides along very nimbly; its teeth upon the upper chap are very long, and upon either side it hath four; those upon the lower chap are so small that they can scarce be seen, except you take away a little bladder, in which they lie concealed; in this bladder it carries poison, which it instantly infuseth into the wound it makes with its teeth. The scales of a Viper are more sharp than a Snake's, and it is of a hotter nature than a Snake, and therefore lives more in the shade, and lies for the most part quailed up like a rope: it is a crafty venomous creature, biting suddenly those that pass by it. It is said, that when a Vi-

196 A DESCRIPTION OF SERPENTS.

per is thirsty, and goes to drink, she first of all voids up her venom, lest by drinking it descend into her own bowels, and so destroy herself; and when she has drunk, licks it up again. Vipers are bred in most nations of the world; those of Europe are much less than those of many other countries. The Viper is said to conceive eggs within her, which she does not lay after the manner of other Serpents; but in her body they are hatched into living Vipers; the young ones are said also to eat their way out of their mother's belly, when she is ready to bring them forth: the bite of this creature is very dangerous, and for the most part mortal, unless instantly relieved.

OF FROGS (*see fig. 8. page 194.*) there are two kinds; one living both on the land and in the water, and common in marshes, standing pools, running streams, and banks of rivers, but never in the sea. The other sort is found in gardens, meadows, hollow rocks, and amongst fruits. The Frog in shape very much resembles a Toad; it is without venom, and the female is greater than the male: the fore part of the tongue cleaveth to the mouth, as in a fish; the hinder to the throat, by which it sendeth forth its voice: It hath two bladders upon either side of the mouth, which it filleth with wind, and from thence proceedeth the voice: when it croaketh, it putteth its head out of the water, holding the nether lip even with the water, and the upper lip above the water; and this is the voice of the male provoking the female to lust: the hind legs are very long, which they use in leaping; the fore legs are shorter, having divided claws, which are joined together with a thin broad skin, which helpeth them in swimming: it is said, that Frogs in the winter-time hide themselves in the earth, and sometimes they enter into their holes in autumn, before winter, and in the spring-time come out again.

THE TOAD, (*see fig. 9. page 194.*) is in all outward parts like a Frog, the fore legs being short, and the hinder long; but the body more heavy and swelling, and of a blackish colour; the skin rough, clammy, and very hard: it hath many deformed spots on it, especially on the sides: the belly exceedeth in bigness all other parts of the body, standing out in such a manner,

A DESCRIPTION OF SERPENTS. 197

that being hit with a stick it yieldeth a sound, as if it were from a vault, or hollow place. The head is broad and thick. The whole aspect of the Toad is extremely unpleasant and disagreeable. The Toad does not leap as the Frog, its pace is a soft creeping pace; yet sometimes in anger it raiseth up itself, endeavouring to do mischief. If it takes hold of any thing in its mouth, it will not let go till it dies. It is said, that the Toad, well knowing the weakness of her teeth for her defence, gathereth abundance of air into her body, with which she greatly swelleth, and then by sighing uttereth that infected air as near to the person that offendeth her as she can; and thus she worketh her revenge, killing by the poison of her breath. The Spider is a great enemy to the Toad. The Toad, when she fighteth with a Spider, is said to make use of an herb to preserve herself from its poison; of which I have read the following story: That a certain Earl travelling near Woburn in Bedfordshire, some of his company espied a Toad fighting with a Spider, under a hedge by the highway side; whereat they stood still till the Earl came also to behold the same; and there he saw how the Spider still kept her standing, and the Toad divers times went back from the Spider, and did eat a piece of an herb like a plantain; at last the Earl, having seen the Toad do it often, and still return to the combat against the Spider, ordered one of his men to go and cut off that herb; which he performed, and brought away. Presently after the Toad returned to seek it, and, not finding it according to her expectation, swelled and burst asunder; for, having received poison from the Spider in the combat, nature taught her the virtue of that herb, to expel and drive it out; but wanting the herb, the poison did instantly work and destroy her.

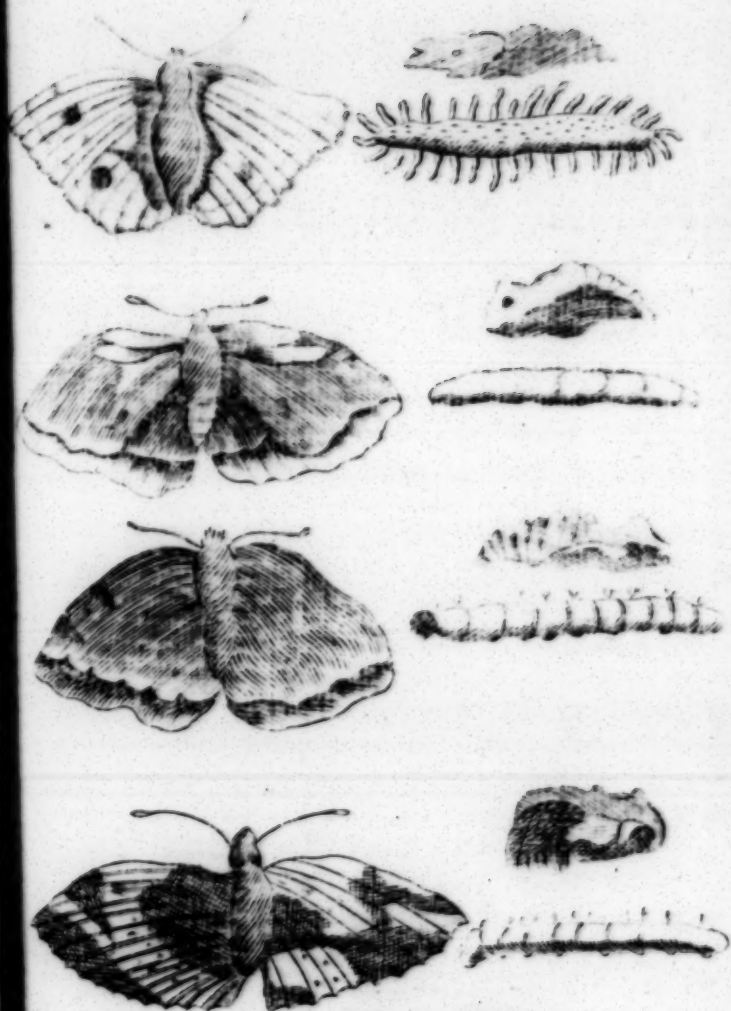
A

D E S C R I P T I O N

O F

I N S E C T S.

OF CATERPILLARS there are many different sorts; some of them are rough, hard, and stiff; some are soft, smooth, and tender; some horned either in the head or tail; others without horns: all have many feet. The Caterpillar, figure 1. is hairy, has its original from the seed of a Butterfly, which it leaves on the leaf of a nettle. It continueth changing for the space of nineteen days; and then proceeds from it a most elegant Butterfly, (see figure 1.) having four wings. When first the Butterfly comes forth, its wings seem like to moist, or wetted paper, from which certain small watery drops distilleth; and which seems worthy observation, in the space of half an hour they become expanded, and fit for flying. It lives on honey, that it sucks out of sweet flowers, &c. It is much delighted with corrupt fruit; for the sake of which there are often desperate battles fought between some of these species. In the winter-time, Butterflies hide themselves in the chimnies of country houses, and in hollow trees, &c. As this Caterpillar is derived from the eggs of such a Butterfly, so are all Caterpillars from the eggs of their respective Butterflies. The Butterfly is the insect in perfection; the Caterpillar, Grub, or Worm, are certain mimicks or disguises of it for a time, in which one and the same animal is circumvested by nature, for various uses, viz. with the disguise of a Caterpillar, that it may eat this or that food; but of a Grub or Worm, that its joints may be finished or hardened. The Caterpil-



BUTTERFLIES



A DESCRIPTION OF INSECTS. 200

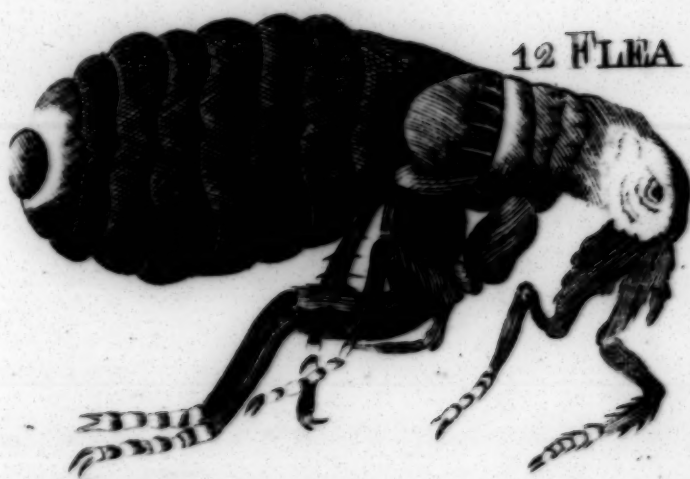
lar delights in the leaves of nettles; nor does it prepare itself for transmutation, or abstain from food, so long as this herb is in its bloom or vigour. The Caterpillar, fig. 2. begins to be changed the 23d of June, and on the 19th of July is produced a Butterfly, marked with beautiful colours. These Butterflies are found all the winter in the stables of beasts. The Caterpillars proceeding from this sort of Butterflies are extremely voracious. Caterpillars feed upon hard, dry food, such as the leaves of trees, &c. But the Butterflies on flowers, honey, and liquid food. Fig. 3. The food of these Caterpillars is the leaves of elm trees. When the time of their transformation draws nigh, they betake themselves to houses or barns; there they fasten the hinder members of their bodies to a certain wall, board, or table, hanging with their bodies downwards, that when they have perfected their transmutation, they may the more easily get out of the crust or shell they are inclosed in. Before that, in the assumption of their new shape, when they put off their old skin, they seem anxiously to labour, by shaking, tossing, and tumbling, as if they were seized with an acute fever. And this wonderful change is produced in a very short space of time, insomuch that it may be distinctly seen and observed; for no sooner is the old skin laid aside, than this transfiguration is seen. This Caterpillar begins to be changed the 12th of June, and on the 30th of the same month becomes a most beautiful Butterfly. It would be an endless task to enumerate the great variety of Butterflies and Caterpillars, with respect to their colours and other different properties; but I hope, from what I have here briefly related of these insects, the reader will be able to conceive something of the nature of the whole species in general.

THE LOUSE is a creature so officious and so impudent, that it will be intruding itself in every one's company; and so proud, that it fears not to trample on the best, and affects nothing so much as a crown; it feeds very high, and that makes it so saucy, as to pull any one by the ears that comes in its way. It is troubled at nothing so much as at a man scratching his head, which makes it oftentimes skulk into some mean place, and run behind a man's back, tho' it go very much against the hair. The figure taken by the Microscope represents it climbing on a hair, with its belly upwards. It is of a very odd shape; has a head shaped like that expressed in the figure; on either side, behind the head, are placed its two black, shining goggle eyes, looking backwards, and fenced round with several small hairs that encompass it. It has two horns, that grow before it in the place where one would think the eyes should be; each of these has four joints, which are fringed with small bristles; the head seems round and tapering, ending in a sharp nose, which seems to have a small hole, and to be the passage thro' which it sucks the blood. It hath six legs, covered with a very transparent shell, and jointed exactly like a Lobster's: each is divided into six parts by these joints, and those have several small hairs; and at the end of each leg it has two very useful claws, being thereby enabled to walk very securely both on the skin and hair. The belly seems transparent likewise; for it is grained all over, just like the skin in the palm of a man's hand.

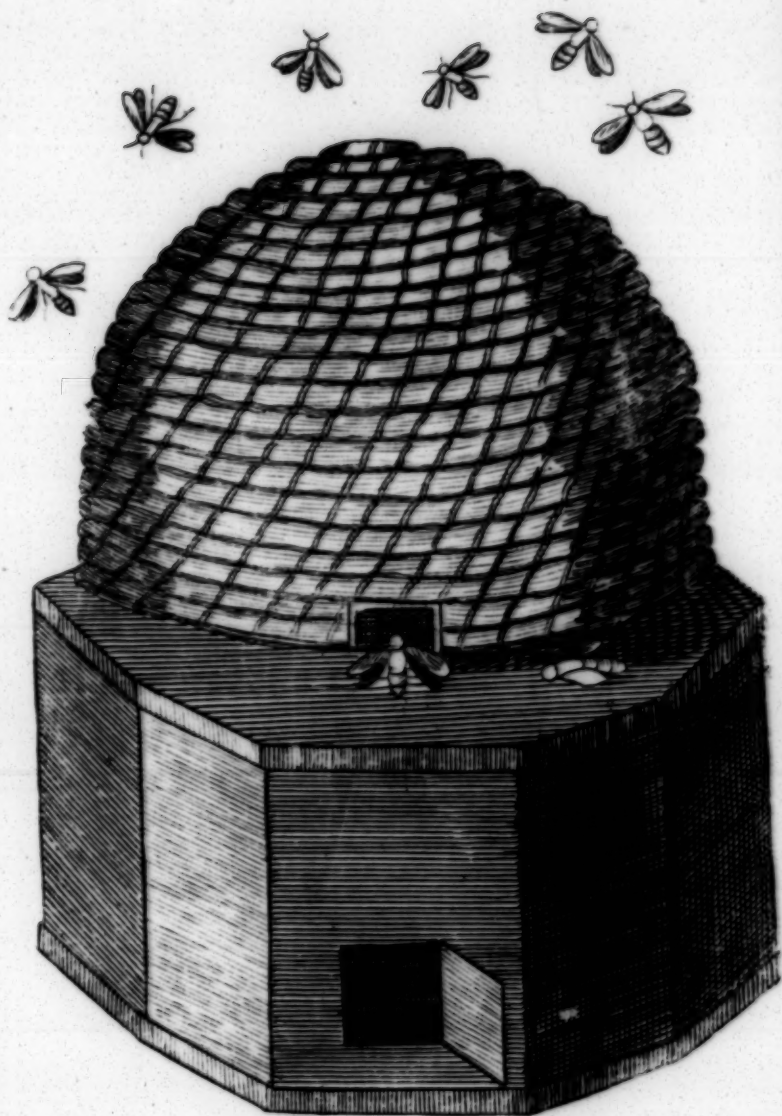
THE FLEA appears by the Microscope to be all over adorned with a curiously polished suit of sable armour, neatly jointed, and beset with multitudes of sharp pines, shaped almost like a Porcupine's quills. The head is, on either side, beautified with a quick and round black eye. It hath six legs, the joints of which are so adapted, that he can, as it were, fold them short one with another; and when he leaps,



11 LOUSE



12 FLEA



A DESCRIPTION OF INSECTS. 203

springs them all out, and thereby exerts his whole strength at once. In the fore-part of his head, between the two fore legs, he has two small long jointed feelers, or rather smellers, which have four joints, and are hairy, like those of several other creatures; between these it has a small probe. It has also two chaps, or biters, which are somewhat like those of an Ant.

THE BEE, that noble, though small insect, is about three quarters of an inch long, having four wings curiously shaped, with strong fibres round and cross them; six legs, a long head, but very small neck, and very slender in the waist, or middle part. Nature hath provided her with two sorts of instruments for war and defence, viz. her mouth, wherein are her teeth, that meet side ways, and not one over the other with which she defends herself, and assaults others; and the sting, which is in her tail. With her fangs she lays hold on robbers, which come to steal her honey, whilst another comes to her assistance with a sting, which generally carries death to any of their own kind that it pierces; and, for the most part, death to herself, when it pierces any of the human species. The sting is very taper and sharp, apt, when exerted by the Bee, to pierce the skin, or other harder body. It contains its poison about the middle of it, which may be discovered by the help of glasses. The eyes are very large, covered over with a thick horny membrane, which occasions the dimness of their sight. But to supply this defect, nature hath given them two horns, which grow above the eyes, about the tenth of an inch long, in each of which there are two joints, one in the middle, and another near the end, by which she can put them forth, when she will, to the full length, and draw them in at pleasure. These are the instruments of feeling. The tongue is much longer than the mouth will contain, and so is doubled underneath, and reacheth a good

way down the breast. The body is all over hairy like a Fox's, and the head too; nay, a great part of the eyes is covered with small hairs, but so small, that they cannot be discerned by the naked eye, without the help of a microscope, which will also discover the brain in the head. Within the breast they have a reddish flesh, with heart and lungs, proper instruments for breathing: in the hinder parts there is a gut, &c. as also a bottle or bag, in which they carry the honey, which they empty into the honey-comb: in this bag they often fetch water, to mix up the sandarach, or bee-bread, for feeding their young; about which they are very careful, till they can shift for themselves: that which has commonly been called the Drone, appears at length to be nothing else but the male Bee, and is about half as big again as the female, which only is the working Bee; somewhat longer, and not quite so dark coloured about the head and shoulders; especially, his head and eyes much larger than the honey-Bee, and voice more loud and dreadful, often causing fear where no fear is; for he having no sting, cannot in the least hurt any creature, but is wholly under the dominion of the females: he is smooth about the neck, and very hairy all over his back: his tongue is shorter than the female's: neither can he work if he would, his tongue not being long enough to reach the honey out of the socketed flowers. This male Bee, or supposed Drone, is not only helpful, but necessary to the females, in the managing of their young; for, by his great heat, he sits and hatches the breed, keeping the eggs warm, whilst the honey-Bees, or females, follow their delightful vocation of gathering and bringing home the honey; during which time the drone Bees are not suffered to stir from the brood; but about one or two o'clock, when the chief part of the day's work is over with the Bees, most of them repairing home, take care of their

A DESCRIPTION OF INSECTS. 206

own brood; and so give leave to these their obedient masculine servants to recreate themselves abroad, their heat being now no longer necessary within doors. Then you may see the male Bees thick about the mouth of the hive, flying to and fro five or six large circuits, to recreate and empty themselves, then returning again to their beloved honey, where they are for a time, especially in May and June, their chief breeding times, kindly received by their imperious dames. The forward flocks of Bees begin to breed in February; and the latter, or those that are not so lusty, leave not off till the latter end of July. So that there are six months in which Bees are bred; and the sooner they begin, the sooner they make an end; tho' generally there are more Bees bred in the two months of May and June than all the rest. It must notwithstanding be owned, that, according to the forwardness or backwardness of the Spring, the chief month may be sooner or later. A Bee is first an egg: this egg, which in time becomes a Bee, is exceeding white, something bigger than the common Fly-bow, but not so long nor so big as an Ants' egg. The eggs of Bees are cast into the empty cells; not carelessly into any cell, but only the middle cells, which are always appointed for the breeding cells, while those all around the hive are reserved for the honey. The eggs of Bees, when first hatched, are Maggots before they become Bees. In the warm weather, how long soever it continues, the Bees leave their hives in quest of honey; as seeming to be sensible, that if they should lose the opportunity of gathering honey in the Spring, and cold weather should come on, especially if the stock be not very rich, many young Bees coming to hand that must be fed, and the bad weather continuing to hinder their provident mothers from working, both young and old must die together. In warm wet weather, when they cannot go abroad, they bury their dead; which they do by flying with them some distance

207 A DESCRIPTION OF INSECTS.

from the hive, and dropping them. Bees hardly live above a year, or thereabouts. The Bee hath several enemies, viz. The mouse, which, in the cold weather, when the Bees are not in vigour, will enter in at the mouth of the hive; and first gnaw the lowermost part of the comb, where there is but here and there a little honey; but waxing bolder as the cold weather increases, and the Bees are more still, ascends into the hive, and seizes on those combs which are next to the sides of the hive, where commonly the richest treasure lies, will eat holes through them, and so come and go through them at pleasure; this act of the Mouse exposes them to other enemies, viz. the Bees of other stocks, who, smelling the fresh honey, come in like thieves when a neighbour's house is on fire, not to help the distressed, but to plunder them of their remaining goods. Now, though they should be able to defend themselves against these latter enemies, yet conceiving a distaste against their hive, by reason of the detestable smell of the Mice, they take a warm day, and fly away all together, though perhaps to an equal, if not a greater, exposing themselves to death, than if they had staid at home; and have sometimes left quarts of honey behind them. The Bee hath, besides the Mouse, these enemies following, viz. the Moth, the Earwig, the Hornet, the Wasp, the Swallow, and the Sparrow; of which, as well as of many other things relating to the Bees, those who desire farther accounts, I refer to them who have distinctly treated of these insects, particularly to Mr. Joseph Warder's *True Amazons, or Monarchy of Bees*; from which treatise I have extracted this account of Bees: that gentleman, from his nice, curious, and long observations on this pleasant, and no less profitable subject, being thought to have discovered more of the nature, properties, &c. of Bees, than any that went before him. The Queen Bee is of all Bees the most glorious. Her body is much

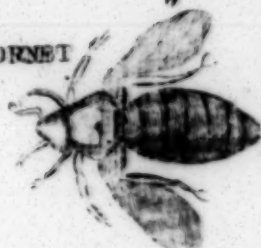
GRASHOPPER



SCORPION



HORNET



SPIDER

FLY



WASP



GNAT

BEETLE



DRAGON FLY



EARWIG



ANT



A DESCRIPTION OF INSECTS. 209

bigger and longer than that of the Honey-Bee; yet the wings are no longer than the others; which shews, that she is not designed for labour, nor long flights, which is the continual business of her subjects. As for her shape and colour, her upper parts are of a lighter brown than the rest; her hinder parts from the waist, (which is very small), as it is much longer than that of the Drone or Honey-Bee, so that is much more taper than theirs. And whereas the Drone and common Bee is brown all over the hinder part, the Queen in that part is as black as jet, or polished black marble. And, whereas the two great legs of the common are quite black, hers are all as yellow as gold, as also she is all along the under part of the belly. In short, the Queen doth as far surpass her subjects in shape and beauty, as the finest Horse does the common Forester. And, as she does far surpass her subjects in shape and beauty, so she also differs from them in breeding. First, the egg of her royal Mother is cast into a cell, made by her vassals for that very purpose, different from the rest, being exactly round, much thicker in wax, and the cell proportionably to her body, much larger than those the common Bees make for themselves. But this round palace is never among other cells, but always by itself. No Monarch has a completer submission from his subjects, than the Queen-Bee from the common Bees. Bees swarm most in May and June, though sometimes in April, and often in July. There happen frequent and desperate wars amongst the Bees, one party sometimes endeavouring to plunder another of its honey; for which it will fight vigorously: But if it should so happen that the plundered Bees have lost their Queen, then they will side with the robbers, and suffer the honey to be carried all out of their hive. Sometimes Bees driven from their own hives, and seeking new quarters, by that means occasion great battles.

210 A DESCRIPTION OF INSECTS.

THE SCORPION is an Insect of Persia, &c. The coal black Scorpion is accounted the most venomous; and is, both in thickness and length, about the size of a man's finger. The body somewhat resembles an egg, and altogether is like a Craw-fish; only it has a blunter head, and a less body. It has eight legs, and two claws, a long knotted tail, which knots appear like so many little bladders; at the end of which it has a very venomous sting. Some Scorpions are said to have two stings in their tails; and some to have venomous teeth, with which they give a deadly bite. It is reported, that the inhabitants of Persia do not sleep in ground rooms, for fear of these creatures. Oil, in which Scorpions have been infused, is a present remedy for the sting of this creature. It is very remarkable concerning this Insect, what an ingenious gentleman, who lived several years in Barbary, said he had many times tried; that, if it be surrounded with a circle of burning coals, it does, upon the sense of the heat, turn itself violently every way to make an escape; but finding it impossible, and the pain from the fire increasing, it strikes itself twice or thrice with the sting on the back, and immediately dies of the wounds.

DESIGNING this little book for the use of those who should not have leisure, or be willing to be at the expence of purchasing larger treatises, and having already swelled it beyond the bulk at first proposed, I have forborne to crowd it with any more particular descriptions; and shall therefore only present the reader with the figures of these following, viz. The GRASS-HOPPER, The SPIDER, The HORNET, The FLY, The GNAT, The WASP, The BEETLE, The DRAGON-FLY, The EAR-WIG; and the ANT.



F I N I S.



Per/